MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 MAY 1981

Lebanon

Israel on Missiles--Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Menachem Begin has sent a message to President Ronald Reagan that explicitly calls for the withdrawal of Syrian SAM missiles from Lebanon but agrees to the President's request that Israel allow U.S. diplomatic efforts to continue. Later the radio said Begin's message told the President that Israel cannot wait long for Syria to remove its missiles from Lebanon. In an interview with the radio, Begin said Israel would "under no circumstances" endanger its own people by ceasing its reconnaissance overflights of Lebanese territory. Israel has a full understanding with the United States regarding this matter, he added. The Israeli leader also said that if U.S. diplomatic efforts fail, Israel will be unable to tolerate the presence of the Syrian missiles on Lebanese territory and "we shall do what we have to do." Begin praised the United States for moving "heaven and earth" in its diplomatic efforts to defuse the Lebanese crisis, but he noted these efforts have so far been in vain. He said only a miracle would bring about a successful diplomatic resolution of the problem, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, in a separate statement reported by the radio, Begin said Syria has moved SAM-3 missiles to its border with Lebanon. Commenting on the situation, Jerusalem radio said the Israeli defense establishment thinks the Syrians do not intend to withdraw their missiles. The combination of three types of SAM missiles would enable the Syrians to down planes at various altitudes, the radio pointed out. Jerusalem television's political correspondent said that neither in Jerusalem nor in the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv is there much optimism about the forthcoming visit to the area of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib.

Khaddam Consultations in Beirut--Before returning to Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held a press conference, broadcast by Beirut and Damascus radios, in which he said that the presence of Syrian SAM missiles in Lebanon is not a subject for discussion and criticized the Israelis for seeking their removal in order to strike at the Lebanese people. Regarding the diplomatic efforts of the United States, Khaddam said the most useful thing it could do would be to exert pressure to stop Israel's aggression against Lebanon. Khaddam also said that after his consultations with President Ilyas Sarkis and other Lebanese politicians he is more optimistic than before about the search for security and peace in Lebanon. Asserting that political conciliation and security are interlinked issues, Khaddam said all Lebanese groups should emerge as "winners" from the crisis, otherwise the stage would be set for a new battle. He also said the Zahlah issue is receiving great attention and asserted that he has no objection to meeting any Lebanese leader, including Phalangist military commander Bashir al-Jumayyil. Beirut radio reported that President Sarkis held extensive consultations throughout the day with deputies and delegations, including a group of Zahlah and Al-Biqa' deputies headed by Defense Minister Joseph Skaf and a bloc of Phalangist deputies headed by Bashir al-Jumayyil. According to the radio, Skaf later said he had asked for an end to the siege of Zallah and had demanded that the 14 principles of accord be implemented quickly.

Christian Statements--A statement by the Union of Christian Leagues and the research committee in Al-Kaslik, broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon, strongly criticized the Syrian presence in Lebanon and described the present attempt to achieve national accord as a camouflage for Lebanon's basic problem, which is the presence of non-Lebanese in the country. A true accord will only be possible, it said, when all "alien usurpers and occupiers" withdraw from Lebanon. The Egyptian news agency MENA reported that Christians in Zahlah have sent a message to Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, published in the Lebanese newspaper AL-BAYRAQ, asking him to intervene to make the Syrians lift their siege of the city and to expel the Syrians from Lebanon.

Military Situation--The Clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Israeli and Christian militia forces shelled Qal'at ash-Shaqif and the Arnun region. Citing AFP, Beirut radio said that 50 Israeli armored vehicles crossed into Lebanon. Israel has also prepared a new helicopter landing site in the west of the border strip, the radio added. Voice of Lebanon reported that Syrian helicopters flew logistical flights in the Al-Biqa' region. The radio also said Beirut and Zahlah were calm, although some explosions and firing occurred in the capital.

Iran

Arbitration Commission--Tehran radio said that Iran has not yet fixed a date for a meeting of the international arbitration commission, a body set up by the Algiers declaration to investigate the claims of Iran and the United States. Citing the official responsible for coordinating implementation of the Algiers declaration, the radio also said that since Iran has objected to one of the U.S. appointees to the commission and the United States has failed to appoint a new arbitrator, it will not be possible to draft an agenda for the session.

Relations With Kuwait--Tehran radio broadcast a Foreign Ministry statement detailing the circumstances of and reasons for Iran's recent seizure of a ship conducting seismological operations on Kuwait's behalf on the Iranian-Kuwaiti continental shelf. The statement said Iran regarded the ship's operations as "unfriendly" given the present war situation and in the absence of a clear demarcation of the Iranian-Kuwaiti continental shelf. Accordingly, on several occasions in April Iran had asked the Kuwaiti Government to halt the ship's mission, the statement said, but the Kuwaitis demurred. Iran therefore seized the ship and the Kuwaitis adopted "an unreasonable response." Charging that Kuwaiti economic and media support for Iraq in its war with Iran has contradicted its declared neutrality in the conflict, the statement said the Kuwaiti Government should answer these charges. If it does not, Iran will regard these "provocative acts as hostile."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Nonaligned Mission--The Moroccan news agency MAP, citing an Indian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman, reported that the nonaligned good-will mission will return shortly to Baghdad and Tehran to resume discussions with the two combatant governments.

Military Situation--An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by INA, said Iraqi units launched a successful attack in the Nowsud region, killing 117 Iranians. The communique also reported clashes in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Dezful, Shush and Abadan regions. Tehran radio confirmed that Iraqi artillery had pounded Dezful, Ahvaz and Abadan, but said Iranian forces had repulsed an Iraqi ground attack on Dezful and forced an Iraqi tank force in Abadan to retreat. According to a guards corps communique, carried by the radio, revolution guards seized seven Iraqi tanks in a counterattack in the Dezful region. Tehran radio also reported that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn personally commanded a recently defeated Iraqi division and that Iranian forces now hold the Bazi Deraz heights, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and the Qaregh Bolagh township.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LE MONDE INTERVIEWS 'ARAFAT ON LEBANON, ISRAEL

LD061005 Paris LE MONDE in French 6 May 81 p 3

[Jean Gueyras interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut: "Yasir 'Arafat Foresees New Israeli 'Military Escalation' Against Palestinians in Southern Lebanon"--date not given]

[Text] Beirut--"There is no longer any doubt: We have been faced with an Israeli-American decision to intensify the military escalation against the Palestinian forces in southern Lebanon with the specific objective of devastating this region."

Mr Yasir 'Arafat, in uniform, received us in his Palestine Liberation Army military operations office between two visits to Arab countries. While answering numerous telephone calls informing him of the latest developments in the situation in southern Lebanon--"a priority issue for us"--Mr 'Arafat expressed his indignation at the silence of international public opinion, "especially French" opinion which "showed so much emotion over Zahlah" but which "remains curiously indifferent" to the "increasingly long" list of Palestinian victims who have fallen under the blows dealt by the Israelis, "who are using ultra-modern U.S. weapons, including those which are banned by international law." "This would suggest," he exclaimed "that Palestinian blood is not worth much!"

Mr 'Arafat took out of his pocket a notebook which he uses to jog his memory, and stated that the Palestinian intelligence services and "those of our friends" have informed the PLO of the existence of high Israeli military concentrations in the sectors of Marj 'Uyun, Qlay'at, Qiryat Shemona and Metulla and that everything is ready for a major military operation aimed at occupying some regions close to An-Nabatiyah as well as the roads leading to Jizzin. "In other words," he said, "there are no prohibitions when it comes to fighting and killing Palestinians."

The PLO leader is particularly bitter toward the new Washington leaders, who did not hestiate to give the "go-ahead" for the Israelis' "barbaric and fascist aggressions" in the south. "America must realize," he said, raising his voice, "that its policy of giving unconditional support to Israel will have negative effects on all its interests in the Near East region. I do not want to make threats, but at a time when the Americans are going all-out--from the olympic games to grain supplies--to combat the USSR, I say that the Arab nation has the right to use all its weapons to face official Israeli terror which, I regret to say, is organized with the Americans' blessing."

Mr 'Arafat contrasted Washington's attitude with that adopted by the USSR which, he said, has proposed a "just settlement to the Near East Crisis" through Mr Brezhnev.

[Question] What about France?

[Answer] I prefer to await the results of the elections before answering.

[Question] What about the European initiative?

[Answer] Is there a European initiative? I very much doubt it. Mr Van der Klaauw recently asked me some questions. At present the European initiative is limited to a few requests for explanations and a few visits to the Near East. Do not forget that there are strong American pressures to prevent Europe making a significant and constructive approach to the problem of whether the Europeans will be able to rid themselves of the American sword of Damocles hanging over their heads. When there is a European initiative worthy of the name we will discuss it seriously.

[Question] But do you have a solution which would settle the crisis and what conditions do you pose?

[Answer] Our conditions for a just settlement to the crisis are ones which guarantee our legitimate rights, which, I would remind you, have been approved by the international community through decisions made in the United Nations. I am referring to our right to return, to self-determination and to create an independent state on our national territory. Without that there will be no peace, stability or settlement in the Near East. [answer ends]

Asked whether he did not think that "recognition of Israel's existence by the PLO would facilitate such a solution," Mr 'Arafat, visibly irritated, replied: "Once again the victims are being asked to make all the concessions. The Palestinian people will make no concession on their legitimate rights. You would do better to ask the universal conscience to exert pressure on the occupiers and aggressors."

Mr 'Arafat refused to comment in detail on the present Lebanese crisis: "It does not concern us!" But he could not prevent himself from pointing to the relations between Israel and its "isolationist allies" (term used by the Palestinians to describe the Phalangists), and to Tel Aviv's desire to "scuttle the attempt to establish national agreement launched by the legal Lebanese authorities in conjunction with Syria." As far as we are concerned, he told us, "we welcome and support this initiative and are prepared to help the Lebanese authorities in this sphere."

[Question] Will you go so far as to agree to a review of the terms governing the Palestinian military presence in Lebanon?

After a short pause for thought Mr 'Arafat continued: "The Palestinian military and political presence in Lebanon is in keeping with the agreements reached between the PLO and the Lebanese Government. Those agreements were approved by the Arab summits in Riyadh, Cairo, Baghdad and Tunis and, just recently, by the Islamic summit in At-Ta'if. We are careful to cooperate with the legal government in Lebanon on applying those agreements in full and to the letter. Any changes would therefore necessarily involve recourse to the aforementioned bodies."

The PLO leader hastily dealt with the remarks on the alleged differences of opinion between the Palestinian movement and the Damascus leaders. "Our relations with our Syrian brothers," he said, "are sound and strategic in nature. Obviously we have different attitudes regarding Jordan. But they respect our viewpoint and we respect theirs."

'ARAFAT RECEIVES USSR, PRC, DPRK ENVOYS 3 MAY

JN031540 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 3 May 81

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today received the Soviet charge d'affaires in Beirut. The radio correspondent has learned that the Soviet charge conveyed an important message to Brother Abu 'Ammar from the Soviet leadership on the latest developments in the Middle East.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also received today the PRC charge d'affaires in Beirut, in the presence of Fatah Central Committee member Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Brigadier General Abu al-Mu'tasim and PLO representative in Beijing At-Tayyib 'Abd ar-Rahim. The Palestinian news agency has learned that Brother Abu 'Ammar gave the charge a message to the PRC leadership on the latest developments in the Middle East in light of the Zionist military escalation in southern Lebanon.

Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar today received a personal message from DPRK President Comrade Kim Il-song, conveyed by the DPRK ambassador in Damascus, inviting him to visit the DPRK. Brother Abu 'Ammar gave the DPRK ambassador a personal message to President Kim Il-song on current developments in Lebanon and the recurrent Zionist attacks on southern Lebanon and the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

ARAB OPINION OF FRANCE DAMAGED BY LEBANON MOVES

LD020930 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 2 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 2 May (KUNA)--A Palestinian official today calls on Arab states to sever diplomatic relations with the regime of Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri because he has reestablished relations with Egypt, which has been boycotted by the majority of Arab countries for signing the peace treaty with Israel.

Member of Fatah Central Committee Majid Abu Sharar warned in a statement in AL-WATAN that laxity or the nonadoption of practical measures in this respect might make other Arab states, which he did not name, follow suit. He said that the Sudanese president was placing himself directly in the service of imperialism and Zionism, causing great damage to the Sudanese and Arab peoples.

He denounced French attempts last month to send international forces to Lebanon on the pretext of putting an end to the fierce fighting between the rightist militia and the Syrian peacekeeping force. This, he added, caused much damage to France in Arab eyes.

The French president, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, had made a bad political and election calculation in this attempt, Abu Sharar added. He accused the French Government of coordinating this step with the United States. This, he pointed out, shows that French policy is tied to the wheel of U.S. policy.

He warned that the Palestinian resistance movement, Syria and the Lebanese leftists will oppose such attempts by the force of arms because the situation in Lebanon, which is an Arab affair, basically concerns the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese.

EGYPT REPORTEDLY SHIPS ARMS TO PHALANGISTS

NC011347 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] According to reports received today from the areas under the control of the isolationist forces, on 25 April an Egyptian ship unloaded a new consignment of equipment and ammunition for the Phalangists. According to these reports, the ammunition boxes bore the words "the Arab Republic of Egypt."

On the other side, military trucks bearing Israeli emblems have been seen in the Kasrawan area. Zionist military experts have been seen in the company of Phalangist elements.

According to other reports, the Phalangists have dug a dirt track between (Dayr Samra') and Biskinta to transport supplies to the Phalangist elements in Biskinta in case the Bikfayya-Al-Qulay'at road is closed in the event of clashes in Duhur ash-Shuwayr.

RUMORS ON PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE IN VILLAGES DENIED

NC060844 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 6 May 81

[Undated statement issued by a "responsible source" of the Palestinian revolution--read by announcer]

[Text] Tendentious rumors are being circulated concerning acts of violence and assassinations which took place in Jdita, Ta'nayil and Ta'labaya to the effect that elements belonging to the Palestinian revolution have shared, or taken part, in such actions. We assert that none of the Palestinian revolution elements have had anything to do with these actions. We always care about the security of the Lebanese citizens.

These rumors are the product of hostile services and tools whose constant aim--known to all Lebanese citizens--is to try to distort the image of the revolution and the revolutionaries.

We appeal to the Lebanese citizens to determine the source of these rumors and to confirm the truth which is summed up in the fact that schemers and known elements together with also known tribal factions are the ones who perpetrated these actions.

VOP CASTIGATES U.S. FOR STATEMENTS ON LEBANON

JN051945 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1540 GMT 5 May 81

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] Intervention or nonintervention, Israeli military attack or no attack, an Israeli military strike or no strike, a Syrian-Israeli war or calming atmosphere; between these two extremes or possibilities the U.S.-Israeli game moves in the region with an obvious coordination detected in the U.S. and Zionist officials' statements. During the past few days Israel exercised the highest level of information escalation and it seemed as if the region were approaching a comprehensive war within a few hours. The U.S. officials then picked this up and began to exercise the role of a mediator or of a guardian of world peace who cares for the region. This was clear through the announcement about a number of contacts they had held with Israel and all sides, as the White House spokesman said. Of course, he did not forget to mention that first among these contacts was one with the Soviet Union.

The process of U.S.-Israeli bargaining is clear through [words indistinct] maximum degrees of military action and then through submitting U.S.-Israeli conditions or desires, as happened yesterday when the U.S. State Department spokesman said that the U.S. administration did not (?specifically) ask Syria to withdraw SAM missiles, but defined conditions pertaining to matters such as the sites of these missiles. This game does not dismiss the possible presence of an Israeli readiness to deal a heavy blow to Syria and all the national forces in Lebanon. The game is to extract the largest possible amount of concessions or collect the largest possible number of points through political and diplomatic pressure.

This game, however, also carries within itself factors showing its contradictions and exposure in a manner that is clear to everyone who has a practical viewpoint of matters in the region. This U.S. mediator, or rather this co-called dove of peace, is the one who supplies Israel with military and political aid on which it depends in all attacks. The U.S. veto is always ready, whether within the UN Security Council or outside it in the international arena, whenever there is an attempt to condemn Israel's daily crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. These daily raids were not considered an escalation nor required U.S. calming efforts. Syria's mere exercise of its natural right to defend the security of its forces, which are stationed in Lebanon in the service and under the command of the Lebanese legitimacy, is considered an escalation of the situation requiring U.S. intervention.

In the logic of the U.S. game in the region, the Al-Biqa' region is so sensitive for Israel's security that it has a right to down two Syrian helicopters in it, whereas Syria has no right to protect Syrian, Lebanese and Arab security in this region.

LIBYAN OIL SECRETARY VIEWS PRICING, OIL WEAPON

LD051142 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 5 May (JANA)--The petroleum secretary has declared that the Jamahiriyah's stand in the coming OPEC conference in Geneva will be based on rejecting any reduction in oil prices and that it will ask for the reduction of production in order to absorb excess crude oil on world markets. He has stated that that would create balanced market conditions and subsequently the prices would be able to rise according to world economic indicators such as inflation and fluctuation of the price of foreign currencies, especially the dollar.

As for the question by JANA's Kuwait correspondent on use by the Arab nation of its oil in the battle with colonialism and Zionism, he has stated that the Arab nation must use all of its weapons to defend the existence of its civilization, which is threatened by Zionism and imperialism. Subsequently the Arab nation is called upon to mass all of its military and economic potential, led by the oil weapon. He has stressed that if the Arab nation agreed to use this weapon well it would be able to create pressure on those who support the Zionist enemy and through this is would be able to use other weapons besides that of oil.

Regarding the subjects that will be discussed by the conference of Arab oil ministers, which opens in Kuwait this Wednesday, he explained that the conference will discuss a number of issues, among them the setting up of an Arab company for engineering consultancy, and the drydock project in Algeria. It will also discuss the position of the Arab Transport Company and finding solutions for its problems and promoting a major role for it in Arab marine transport of oil operations as well as the subject of the Arab training center. He says that the most important achievements that will be dealt with by the conference will be the emergence of the Arab judicial body of OAPEC to which nine judges have been appointed. He pointed out that out of the national dimension of the Fateh Great Revolution it is working to back this joint Arab action. He has stated that if the Arab countries were able to clearly unite their economic interests, they would achieve what they wanted.

IRAN'S MINISTER REJECTS SAUDI CALL FOR PRICE CUT

NC031013 Paris AFP in English 1002 GMT 3 May 81

[Text] Algiers, 3 May (AFP)--Iranian acting Oil Minister Hasan Essadat has implicity rejected a recent call by Saudi Arabia for a cut in oil prices by declaring that prices are a matter for OPEC.

The minister, who has just completed a two-day visit here, said Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani had expressed a personal view when he spoke recently in Washington in favour of a price cut.

The minister is on a tour to African oil producing countries to prepare for the ministerial meeting of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), due to be held in Geneva on May 25.

KUWAIT

'ARAFAT VISITS AS PART OF AREA TOUR ON LEBANON

LD060954 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0707 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 6 May (KUNA)--The head of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, this morning had a meeting with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to discuss the criticial situation in Lebanon and other developments in the Middle East.

On his arrival here last night from Saudi Arabia, 'Arafat said that his tour sought to discuss "the delicate and serious conditions" through which Arabs were going, especially the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and the "Israeli threats to Palestinian fedayeen and to the Arab Deterent Forces composed of Syrian soldiers in Lebanon." He said that "naturally, I have to come to discuss these issues in order that together, we as an Arab nation, face all issues, as one hand and one heart."

LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY CONFERS WITH AMIR

LD041916 Tripoli JANA in English 1728 GMT 4 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 4 May (JANA)--The Libyan Arab foreign secretary, Dr 'Ali at-Turayki, today met the Kuwaiti crown prince.

At a press conference in Kuwait Dr at-Turayki said that he has delivered a message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to the amir of Kuwait regarding the situation in Lebanon and continued Israeli aggression against Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese people.

Dr at-Turayki added that during his meeting with the amir of Kuwait and the crown prince they discussed the situation in the Arab region and the concentrated U.S. presence in the region.

Dr at-Turayki said the amir of Kuwait had expressed Kuwaiti backing for the Jamahiriyah in its stress on the need to bolster Syria, the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Front against the Zionist offensive.

The amir of Kuwait and the crown prince, he said, have moreover expressed Kuwait's condemnation of the Egyptian military concentration on the Jamahiriyah border.

SAUDI ARABIA

BRUNO KREISKY HOLDS TALKS WITH OFFICIALS, 'ARAFAT

Official Talks

LD060704 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Saudi-Austrian talks began at 2130 yesterday [5 May] at the royal palace in Al-Ma'dar under the joint chairmanship of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Excellency Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. Attending the talks on the Saudi side were Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Defense and Aviation Minister Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal; Dr (Rashad Firwawn), his majesty's personal adviser; and Planning Minister Shaykh Hisham Nazir. The Austrian side included the deputy leader of the parliamentary wing of the Democratic Socialist Party, Mr (Karl Blecha); deputy leader of the parliamentary wing of the Liberal Party, Mr (Helmuth Josseck); and the Austrian ambassador to the kingdom, Dr Franz Schmidt.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations, aspects of cooperation between the two countries in various fields and political issues of common concern, first and foremost being the Palestinian question and the Middle East situation.

'Arafat Meeting

LD052232 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Riyadh, 5 May (SPA)--Before leaving Riyadh this evening, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat conferred with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who is currently visiting the kingdom. Several topics, including the current situation in Lebanon and the Palestinian question, were discussed at this meeting.

UAE

AL-BAYAN CALLS FOR ARAB SUMMIT ON ISRAELI THREAT

JN060826 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1745 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 May (GNA)--The UAE newspaper AL-BAYAN has called on the Arab nation to take a serious stand against the Zionist enemy and its persistent aggression.

In a commentary today the newspaper calls "for the convening of an urgent Arab summit to face the potentials of the Israeli enemy, which are increasing, without waiting for the outcome of the current contacts between Washington and Moscow."

The paper warns of the increasing Zionist threat to the Arab nation and says "this threat is not directed solely against Syria, as it was not directed solely against Palestine, but against other Arab land as well."

AL-BAYAN concludes that the Zionist threat is much greater than all the marginal issues around which Arab differences, divisions and conflicts revolve.

PDRY

PRESS COMMUNIQUE ON MEETING OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

LD052252 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 May 81 EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, issued a press communique last night on the result of the eighth ordinary session of the Supreme People's Assembly held 3-4 May. The communique dealt with the situation in the region and the Middle East, and a number of bills passed by the assembly in its session. Here is the communique:

During the period 3-4 May 1981, the assembly held its eighth ordinary session which was devoted to debating a number of issues relating to future economic and social development. At the beginning of the session the assembly heard a political report on the activities of the state during the interim period between the two sessions. The assembly expressed its appreciation of the activities of the state, both internally and externally. It expressed its satisfaction at the strengthening of the PDRY's position in the Arab world and internationally. The assembly reviewed the developments in the region and in the Middle East with seriousness and underlined the importance of warding off the dangers which threaten the security and stability of the region. These include the fact that the region's security depends on eliminating the imperialist military presence and the refusal of the countries in the region to open up their territories for the establishment of threatening and aggressive bases.

In this connection the assembly reiterated Democratic Yemen's call to hold a meeting of the states in Arabia, the Arab Gulf and the Horn of Africa and other interested parties to discuss the question of eliminating the hostile bases and the hostile military presence in the region.

On the continuing Zionist occupation of Arab territories and disregard for the rights of the Palestinian people, the assembly stressed that a search for peace within the context of Camp David is useless. The only way to peace is complete and unconditional Zionist withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The Palestinian people should be enabled to return, exercise self-determination and build their independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The assembly affirmed its continued and complete solidarity with the Lebanese National Movement, the Lebanese people and Syria in their confrontation with Israeli aggression and Israel's isolationist puppets.

Just as it had given its attention to economic and social development, the assembly also devoted attention to the issues of democracy and the people's authority. It considered a report on the progress of elections to the local people's assemblies and assessed the experience of the assemblies in the past years. The assembly expressed satisfaction with the election process. It appealed to the workers and the toiling masses to participate actively in the elections with a view to selecting their representatives to the local people's assemblies who would shoulder the task of developing the traditions of the people's authority and carrying out the tasks of economic and social development in the provinces.

In this session the assembly reviewed a number of bills and fully debated the bill on postal services which should lead to developing the services. It also debated the bill on the public watch committee and a bill on the rights and duties of trade union committees. It expressed its confidence that the two bills would play a big role in enabling the toiling masses to keep a closer watch on the performance of the organs and institutions of the state so as to protect the laws and public assets on one hand and increase their trade union role on the other.

Other bills debated by the assembly included the bill on the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a bill against expanding cultivation of catha edulis [qat].

With regard to the question of catha edulis, the assembly gave it a great deal of attention and underlined the need to take steps to limit its cultivation as a preliminary to removing it as a social threat. At the same time the peasants should be encouraged to cultivate crops that would benefit the national economy and the life of the people.

The assembly also considered bills and regulations including revocation of a law on the customs treatment of gifts and personal effects; amendment of the external trade law; a law on the imposition of excise duty on locally produced products. The assembly also debated a bill on investment. The assembly passed unanimously all the draft laws presented.

The assembly also endorsed decrees of the Presidium issued during the interim period between the two sessions, including: loan agreements for the financing of the greater Aden water project; trade exchange with the USSR; and loan agreement with the international fund for agricultural development.

The session was successful, evidence enough of the entrenchment of democratic traditions and the readiness of the people's representatives to continue their work in a sincere spirit for the benefit of the toiling masses who have entrusted the representatives with their confidence under the leadership of the political authority with a view to achieving progress and prosperity.

YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS 'COUNTERBASES' IDEA

LD060931 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 May 81 p 19

[Interview given to Muhammad Yunis by Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutf ath-Thawr--place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] What is Yemen's position regarding the Rapid Deployment Forces, and what are the best means to keep the Arab Gulf area unaffected by international conflicts?

[Answer] Our declared principled stance is rejection of foreign protection. Since we reject the mere idea of foreign interference in our internal affairs, we absolutely do not accept the excuses and justifications used by any great power to protect the area, or rather, to protect its own interests before anything else. There is no doubt, in our opinion, that the best way to keep the Arab Gulf area out of international conflicts is through consultations and close coordination in all fields between the states of the main Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, because the security, stability and peace of the two areas are indivisible, and all these states are responsible for the preservation of the area's security, the rejection of any attempt aimed at imposing trusteeship and protection on this area and its people, and the determination of the real, direct source of any foreign threat or protection and its overt and covert aim.

[Question] To what extent can Yemen be affected by the American military bases in the Sultanate of Oman? Do you believe that counterbases could be set up in the southwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula?

[Answer] From a geopolitical standpoint, the Arab Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula constitute a complete organic whole which interacts and is affected by what takes place in it, whether negatively or positively. We have often declared through Brother-Leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih that we are opposed to any foreign military presence, even in an area that is relatively remote from Yemen such as the Indian Ocean or any other area. The idea of establishing counterbases is not in the interest of the area's people, who wish to have stability, peace and tranquillity in the area and to end talk about the vacuum which certain forces want to fill against the wishes and aspirations of the area's peoples for peace, stability and development.

All the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf states must declare their rejection of foreign military presence and disallow it, whatever the excuse.

[Question] It is being said that Soviet experts and advisers have begun to return to Yemen, after their numbers were very limited at a certain phase. Does their return have any relationship with the arms deal or is it for training purposes only? What would be the fate of the Americans in this situation?

[Answer] Every developing state establishes cooperation with other states not only in the military field but in other fields as well. Our military relations with the Soviet Union are not new, nor were they born today. They date back 25 years. Our policy, which is based on achieving the higher national interests, requires us to cooperate with anyone who extends his hand to us in honest cooperation. Our relations with both the Soviet Union and the United States proceed along this line. Ours is not the only country in this area or elsewhere which is cooperating with these two states militarily. Our government and people appreciate the Soviet Union's stance of bolstering the Yemeni revolution and supporting the Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian people's cause.

'ALI VIEWS SINAI FORCE, IMPENDING STERNER VISIT

NC051952 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that the Arab Republic of Egypt is interested in forming a UN peacekeeping force, but it is at the same time holding contacts on forming a multinational force if a UN peacekeeping force proves impossible.

He added that U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sterner would arrive in Cairo on 16 May for bilateral talks with Egyptian officials on forming a multinational force. Sterner, he said, will go to Israel on 17 May and then return to Cairo to attend the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli tripartite meetings, scheduled to be held on 18 and 19 May, to approve all that is agreed upon during the current tripartite negotiations in Washington on the formation, size, movement, limits, commands, costs, political aspects and prerogatives of the force as an international one.

What will be agreed upon, he said, will be considered as supplementary to the military appendix in the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. He added that contacts would then begin with the states contributing to this force, which will consist of 2,000-2,500 men.

Concluding, 'Ali said that Egypt believes that the present U.S. early warning forces should remain.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MESSAGE ON ZAHLAH 'MASSACRES'

NC051542 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Beirut, 5 May (MENA)--The citizens of Zahlah in Lebanon have requested that President Anwar as-Sadat intervene to stop the massacres, lift the siege on the city and expel the Syrians from Lebanon.

In a message sent to President as-Sadat, the citizens of Zahlah thanked President as-Sadat for his appeal to end the bloodshed in Lebanon and stressed that his voice had restored their confidence and faith in sincere fraternity based on love and piety.

The Lebanese paper AL-BAYRAQ published the text of the message of the inhabitants of Zahlah to President as-Sadat, which reads:

The Lebanese city of Zahlah and its 200,000 Lebanese citizens have been under siege for more than 4 months, during which the Syrian Army has shelled it using heavy artillery, tanks, rocket launchers and field artillery. The dead and wounded count in the hundreds and ruin and destruction have hit every house. The women, children and old people are living in shelters.

While under debris, Zahlah, the city which Ahmad Shawqi [deceased, most famous Arab poet in modern time] referred to as the valley city, heard your sincere Arab voice about what the Syrian Army committed against this peaceful city, which has, as you said, turned into a bloodbath. It is (?no surprise) that the president of Egypt, the country of Al-Azhar, peace and love, stands with the innocent people.

Your voice has restored our confidence and faith in our Arab brothers and in the sincere fraternity based on love and piety in accordance with the prophet, saying: God favors most the most pious among you.

Your Excellency the President: When thanking you, Zahlah expects you to continue your intervention, for the sake of 200,000 innocent citizens, to end the massacres, lift the siege and expel the Syrians from Lebanon.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES MAY DAY CELEBRATION IN HULWAN

NC021408 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1028 GMT 2 May 81

[Speech delivered by President Anwar as-Sadat at a celebration held in the 15 May industrial city of Hulwan on the occasion of International Workers Day--carried live in a linkup of Cairo transmitters]

[Text] In the name of God. Brothers, sisters, sons and daughters among the workers of Egypt: a happy return. [cheers and applause] I convey to you the congratulations of your people in Egypt and through you to all the male and female workers of Egypt. [applause]

I was very happy today, sons and daughters, when I was on my way to this place. This is the first time that I have come to this area. Indeed, I am very happy that our meeting today should take place in a new labor city. I was indeed happy to see that all that was done in this city is most modern. This place was a mountain in the past. Today, the construction of this city for you and the workers of Egypt, and what has been accomplished inside this city and what is under construction, are actions which speak for themselves.

You will remember, sons and daughters, that we celebrated May Day last year in Al-'Arish, on the land of Sinai. Our celebration last year took place in Al-'Arish, on the land of Sinai. This year, we are celebrating the occasion in a new city added to the new map of Egypt, where cities are built and achievements are accomplished.

I remember, sons and daughters, my first meeting with you after my election as the president of the republic. This meeting took place in May 1971, here in Hulwan, not far from this place. I remember this first meeting. If you go back to such a day 10 years ago, Workers Day in 1971, as I did when I was on my way to you, you will undoubtedly remember that I told you something then which I will try to review with you now, so that we may review the march of the past 10 years.

I told you verbatim on May Day 1971: The building will not preoccupy us and divert us from the battle, and the battle will not preoccupy us and divert us from the building. The battle is for the sake of building and the building is for the sake of the battle. This is the history of all our people and it is our history with the revolution. Our battles for building life have not stopped and our battles for defending life will not stop. [applause]

That was a verbatim excerpt of what I told you 10 years ago: continuous construction and continuous defense of the construction.

If you recall, sons and daughters, we fought a war in 1973 in order to build life. We also waged the battle of peace to protect the building of life. In both cases we defied the biggest obstacles and offered the greatest sacrifices. While we were preparing for the battle of arms, sons and daughters, we only saw it as one aspect of our major battle of construction.

Let us go back to my speech to you 10 years ago. I say, 10 years have passed since then. Let us together review what we said to see that throughout these 10 years we were not moving in a vacuum. The foundation was there.

Ten years ago I said to you: Our battles are numerous. The arms battle is only one aspect. It is not the entire battle. The battle is that we must not allow ourselves to lag behind once again. Let us use this battle as a starting point toward building a new state based, above all, on twin principles: science and faith. [applause]

Ten years ago I also said to you that we must go back to the name of Egypt, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and draw up our own permanent constitution defining everything in our life and clarifying the features of our new society and its shape, guarantees and limits.

I also said, verbatim: We must legislate the revolution.

I also said to you 10 years ago: We do not need extraordinary measures at all. The judiciary is the final authority and the protection of the society is done through the rule of law. [applause]

I also told you, my sons and daughters--all Egypt and our Arab nation and the world can hear us today--I said to you: My being chosen by the Egyptian people as president of the republic is tantamount to a vow by the people and myself that we will together protect national unity and strengthen it in preparation for movement toward the battle of destiny.

I also said to you, my sons and daughters, 10 years ago that I was also directing my words to the centers of power at that time who wanted to make that year's May Day an arena for opening a battle. While they were absolutely incapable of opening a battle in this country, they plotted and tried to foil the 1 May 1971 rally, but your vigilance, you the workers, frustrated it.

You will remember, my sons and daughters, that day when they collected some remnants of the pioneer organization, gave them pictures of 'Abd an-Nasir and sat them on the right side so that whenever I spoke they would raise the pictures.

Well, there was no dispute between myself and 'Abd an-Nasir when we were living together. Should there then be a dispute between me and him after his death? There is absolutely no dispute.

My sons and daughters, because I am always proud that I am the father of the Egyptian family and because you all know me for I have lived among you and with you, I take this opportunity to say that to me the responsibilities are indivisible, as are ethics. If I consider myself responsible for every person from one end of Egypt to the other, be he a man or a woman, and if I do not permit any person's dignity to be harmed, then let them all know that 'Abd an-Nasir's sons are my sons. [applause] Let them also know, my sons and daughters, that I have announced before the People's Assembly, on every occasion, and I announce it here today before you, the workers of Egypt, so that Egypt will hear, that I am responsible and will continue to be responsible for every decision and action that 'Abd an-Nasir took and made. I am also ready for that. [applause] I am not saying these words at random. I am putting them on record for history. Everyone who has the slightest doubt should know that I present this responsibility clearly and that I am ready to be brought to account before you. [applause]

Let me go back to what I was saying. Ten years ago, my sons and daughters, I addressed before you the centers of power, who tried to drive a wedge between me and 'Abd an-Nasir--those whom I call the 'Abd an-Nasir beneficiary group. I told them before you that no individual or group, no matter what that individual or that group was, had the right to claim power for itself separate from the power of the people or to hide behind slogans or maneuvers or to attempt, through maneuvers, to form centers of power by which to impose tutelage on the people. The people had dropped all centers of power so that they alone would be the masters of their fate.

My sons, I said all this 10 years ago to the centers of power. As you know, in May 10 years ago the centers of power rose and tried to transform the revolution, handing in their resignations so that a constitutional collapse would take place in the state. As a result, I placed them under house arrest and referred the issue to the judiciary. Their case was famous and, as it transpired, all of them had made recordings. The intelligence director had made recordings of what the interior minister and the others had said, and the interior minister had made recordings of what the intelligence director and the others had said. The court passed sentences on them on the basis of their recordings and their admissions. Sons and daughters, 10 years later, now that we have had our military battle and begun the battle of contruction everywhere on Egyptian soil--here we have new cities, 80 percent of Sinai recovered, intensive agriculture and all that I am going to talk to you about--this month, after my meeting with you, I will grant them amnesty, now that 10 years have elapsed. [applause and cheers] As I have told you, sons and daughters, we can summarize the landmarks of the past 10 years in four points: the battle of arms and the battle of construction, proceeding together in parallel lines; the return to legitimacy with the permanent constitution and the rule of the law; the establishment of the state based on science and faith, the people being their own masters with no place for centers of power; and, the fourth point, the protection of national unity becoming a matter of destiny.

Well, today, after 10 years, what do we see, sons and daughters? Let us review together, because there is nothing more beautiful than the epochal 10-year struggle we began together hand-in-hand, and seeing it achieve what it has achieved.

Let me review the 10 years with you. In May 1971 we had the corrective revolution. In May 1972 we had the popular solidarity for the defeat of the psychological warfare launched against us by friend and foe to make us lose confidence and explode from within. In May 1972, when I met with you, we said that we were capable of standing on our own feet, of standing fast and of shouldering the responsibilities of the battle. That was in May 1972. I want to tell you, and all the people of Egypt can hear and see me, I tell you: You supported me, oh workers of Egypt, [applause] and so did the broad base, with complete honor and pride, when I repudiated the calls of defeatism and surrender and said to you that we wanted peace, but that it was no use working for peace unless peace had a weapon to defend it and to impose the dignity of justice and honor of principle.

This is what we said together in 1972. Then came the Workers Day of 1 May 1973. We celebrated it in Al-Mahallah, my sons, as you recall. [cheers] As you recall, my sons and daughters, when we gathered in Al-Mahallah in 1973 I had already set the zero hour for October 1973. On 1 May I spoke in general terms, but it was clear to many of you that it was about to happen. I said that the day of salvation was near. I said it while the Soviet Union wanted to push us into a peaceful solution amounting to surrender, because if we were defeated and sought a peaceful solution it would have meant surrender. A battle had to come first.

In the meantime, the roar, clamor and din of the doubting trumpets increased. What did I say at Al-Mahallah al-Kubra on the occasion of May Day, your day, in 1973? I said verbatim: I have accepted my destiny as God decreed and in accordance with the dictates of my political and constitutional responsibilities. I have accepted my destiny as dictated by my feelings as a citizen and as a man who lives on this land, abides by loyalty to it and sacrifices himself in defending its freedom, believing that it is right and that victory is its share and that all sacrifices for its sake are cheap. I believe you understood what I meant on that day. I actually saw your enthusiasm in Al-Mahallah al-Kubra. It encouraged me and inspired me to implement the decision I adopted.

You will also remember, sons and daughters, that I said, verbatim, at Al-Mahallah al-Kubra on 1 May 1973, after I had taken the decision to wage the battle: Every village is a citadel, every factory is a cannon, every man is under arms and every fighter is under fire. [applause]

I also told you, verbatim, sons and daughters among the workers of Egypt, in Al-Mahallah in the year of the battle: We will never capitulate, we will never squander one inch of our land, we will not bargain on the rights of the Palestinian people and no big power can conquer our will. On that day, 1 May, we defined in Al-Mahallah three tasks for the stage of the comprehensive confrontation, which I advocated on that day. The three tasks we defined for the stage of the comprehensive confrontation were:

1. The liberation of the land.
2. The rebuilding of the society.
3. The establishment of permanent peace based on justice.

These were the three tasks I defined in Al-Mahallah for the stage of the comprehensive confrontation. I defined these tasks in the same year as the battle. I had actually, as you came to know afterward, taken the decision to wage the battle a month earlier. [applause]

We also agreed in Al-Mahallah that the liberation would not wait for the building and that the building would not wait for the liberation, but that both would proceed in parallel. I concluded my speech to you, the workers of Egypt, in Al-Mahallah on your day in 1973, saying verbatim: There will come a moment, God willing, when all of us will be invited to bear the responsibility for our destiny, and I know that none of us will hesitate. These were my concluding words and victory dawned, thanks be to God, as a result of your will. [cheers and applause]

Then, my sons, came the May Day anniversary in 1974. The May Day anniversary came in 1974, and the major event on 1 May 1974, Workers Day, was that victory became the starting point for building. On that anniversary in 1974, I appealed to you to begin compensating for what had passed, and said that we would not be faithful to the souls of our upright martyrs and the spirit of October unless we built the dear homeland and established the strong society that our martyrs dreamed about.

The May Day anniversary came in 1975. On this anniversary, you may remember, we began what we called the transitional period. We had before us some urgent responsibilities and at the same time we were facing childish and offensive campaigns from Arab capitals, which are still busy with words up to today and which are still engaged in bloody massacres against the Arab citizens. At that time in 1975 they were casting doubts about the disengagement agreement, saying that there were secret clauses. I told you on that anniversary that whether the Geneva conference succeeded or failed, we feared nothing and we had before us the responsibilities of building.

We continued on our way, without these impotent and suspect campaigns from the Arab capitals diverting our attention. As I told you, we called 1975 the transitional period. We had to carry out a transitional plan based on the operation of idle enterprises and carrying out replacement work in the factories and in the whole public sector, and then carry out quick projects, such as the fertilizers and cement projects, and improve the services in which mistakes had accumulated over the years and from which we began suffering in every city.

Then the May Day anniversary came in 1976. On this anniversary I announced to you that we would not only build and develop the area west of the Suez Canal but would also bring life for the first time to the area east of the Suez Canal, carrying the Nile waters to the Sinai for the first time.

I told you, my sons, on that day--1 May 1976--that this construction and development eastward was, in the long-range, considered one of the most important points of national security for our country. You know, of course, that water has reached the Sinai, east of the canal. You know that we have begun building the new Mit Abu al-Kawm there. You know that after finding a barren desert in this area of the Sinai I was surprised to see that 3 months later, after water was diverted to the area and the development equipment was set up, the land was green in the Sinai.

We celebrated May Day 1977 in Alexandria, and you all remember that when we met on 1 May 1977 in Alexandria I called for the removal of all obstacles in the way of providing services for the people. I told the government: End the routine.

My sons and daughters, workers of Egypt, in 1977 you took a historic stand when you rejected and fought the 18-19 January plot. The perpetrators of this plot wanted to create a bloody struggle among the people's classes and to betray and sabotage all their achievements and return to tyranny. This was an immortal stand by the workers of Egypt, which Egypt will never forget and which the people of Egypt will never forget.

Your vigilance was most splendid. They deceived some students, but they were unable to deceive a single worker. The workers of Egypt stood to condemn the treachery, treason, sabotage, bloody struggle and return to tyranny.

On your day in 1978, we celebrated together in dignity, joy and pride the support of millions of the world's people for the peace initiative, which upset all criteria and which wrote a new history for this area. Egypt occupied a universal, pioneering position among the millions of people in the world.

If your remember, my sons, I said on the occasion of your day in 1978 that the workers of Egypt were in the forefront of the millions who surrounded me with the most magnificent trust and love and that our national unity had become a fact as strong as the mountains that would not be shaken by artificial storms, which were insignificant as far as we were concerned.

On your holiday in 1978, I thanked you for your full support and love of the peace initiative. I personally cannot pay you back.

On your holiday in 1979, we had already signed the Camp David agreement.

In 1980, last year, we celebrated May Day in the land of Sinai. After 1 year, [cheers and applause] we are meeting here. The gist of all this, sons and daughters, is that the sacrifices of the people and your sacrifices, the workers of Egypt, have never changed and that they did not stop during all the stages of building the state, man and prosperity. Your sacrifices never stopped.

Well, I will try and give you an idea of what was accomplished last year. I assumed the premiership last year. You remember that I also assumed the premiership in March 1973 before the battle. I told you in Al-Mahallah then that it was my destiny to wage the battle. This time, I assumed the premiership last May for the sake of the battles of building and of defending the building. The best proof of this is that we met last year on the land of Al-'Arish, the land of Sinai, after we recovered 80 percent of this land. This year, we are meeting on the land of a new city on the new map of Egypt. This is among seven or eight cities which have actually been constructed. But the Egyptian citizen can come to see the achievement made in 1 year only. No one can believe this achievement, except those who see it here in person. [cheers]

In 1 year, in the field of economy and production, we formed the bank of national investment. In the second half of 1980 the volume of trade between Egypt and the rest of the world reached 3.3 billion pounds, an increase of 35.7 percent. We signed two agreements with France, valued at 11.45 billion French francs, for the Cairo project and to finance the first phase of redoing the telephone network.

The taxes, the government's revenue, totalled 1.8 billion pounds, 108 percent more than the target. There was an increase of 378 million pounds over the same period of 1979.

Seventy-four banks were created in the various governorates. You have heard about popular development. The development bank's aid to farmers reached 267 million pounds, in addition to 195 million pounds in the form of short-term loans.

Last year the armed forces joined in the food security projects. Their units began producing food such as poultry and eggs and they have automatic slaughter houses. Sixteen units are already in operation and the armed forces have become self-sufficient in meat production as well as in everything else they need without taking anything from the people.

The food security projects in the governorates now produce 399 million eggs and 97 million chickens. All this is happening. I am talking about the 10th year of my rule, because it is your right, my sons, to know these facts so that we may take to task the officials in charge of this should there be any slackening.

Today, my sons, I was very happy to see the commercial center in your city because it is similar to what I see in America in the movies and the cities there. Really, your city here and its commercial center have everything. I tell you, my sons, owners of the May City, do not pay more than the prices I saw today, not at all. [applause]

You know, my sons, I will tell at the end here what the Workers Day present for you and all Egypt will be. [applause] However, we must be alert. The Cabinet can hear me now and so can the governorates. The increases I am going to announce for you will begin in July. If the prices go above today's prices, the governor in his governorate will be the first to blame.

My sons of May, I saw the prices today. Perhaps some may believe that these prices were listed for my benefit. [cheers]

Anyone manipulating prices in May City should be reported to me directly.

Production is going ahead, my sons. All of what I have talked to you about was last year. The fertilizer factory in Talkha was built at a cost of 145 million pounds. The production of the aluminum factory in Naj' Hammadi was increased by 33,000 tons. The polyester fibers factory was built at a cost of 65 million pounds and has produced 26,000 tons. The first stage of the Jirja sugar factory will produce 75,000 tons. There are tens and even hundreds of projects. Civil military production increased by 50 percent in 1979. This includes electric meters, water meters, domestic equipment, butane gas cylinders, solar water heaters and automatic bakeries which are produced by the military factories.

The value of exports from the oil sector this year was 1.942 billion pounds, an increase of 44 percent. We made 14 new oil discoveries and put three oilfields into operation with a daily capacity of 150,000 barrels. Domestic production of crude oil, gas and butane gas increased by 4.9 million tons. We also concluded agreements so the companies can increase production.

As you have heard me say, Almighty God wanted to compensate us for our patience, because He looks at the hearts and not at the tongues. Almighty God blessed us with oil, which will bring us 12 billion Egyptian pounds annually in 2 years. This means, God willing, after 3 years. But we are not going to wait. We began our projects this year on account of what we shall get after 3 years [from the oil revenue] in order not to keep the people idle and stop production. By the time we get the revenues from the oil after 3 years, we should, God willing, have resolved the food crisis in Egypt and the housing crisis, God willing.

Income from tourism has increased by 23.1 million pounds, and the company [the national airlines] has bought five new airbus aircraft, and the domestic lines are operating.

The railway has also been renewed, and we have imported 739 buses. We have put in six new automatic telephone exchanges, and the second stage of the microwave network among the Cairo exchanges has been completed. You also know about the Al-Ma'adi operations, and so forth.

What drew my attention and made me very happy today was seeing the modern supermarket here, which is like the most modern ones in the United States. I also was very happy to see the central bus station, which is very modern like those in Europe and the United States.

The railway has been rebuilt over a distance of 115. [as heard] Some 395 railway passenger cars and 42 sleepers have been imported. Sixteen new electric units have been bought for the Hulwan metro line. I did not want to say everything in detail, but the documents and the minister of transport are here to prove this.

With regard to construction and housing, the tunnels between Egypt and Sinai, between Suez and Sinai, between Sinai and its mother Egypt, which would have been one of our first priorities, are being accomplished. [applause] As I have told you, my children, the Martyr Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel has been completed between motherland Egypt and Sinai.

In the 10 Ramadan City, some 2,411 housing units are being built and some 3,000 units are being built here in this city. I have seen the plan for this city. I have asked that the plan be put into effect immediately. I am one of those who are living on the land of Egypt. All this will be implemented. The ministers and the state are exerting great efforts. I have asked that the achievements here should be photographed and shown to the people, so that they can see the extent of the accomplishments. It is beyond belief. We have just heard the governor of Cairo talk about the new areas and new cities, like this one, which are rising around Cairo. To frustrate the designs of the evildoers. we must place all of this before our people so they will know what is being accomplished and the extent of the efforts being exerted by the state institutions.

The popular clothing project, in the supplies sector, was, as you know, started this year. Its sales have reached the value of 100 million pounds to about 20 million citizens. This is the popular low-cost sector.

Regarding social welfare, 11 million pounds were paid for the welfare of the families of the fighters, 2.6 million pounds for the welfare of the evacuees, 3.3 million pounds for afflicted families, 1.6 million pounds for nurseries and 3.8 for popular societies.

On social security, the total number of people covered by social security on 31 March 1981 was 10.2 million citizens. If we multiply this number by 3 or 4, we will see the 41 million people are covered. This is the security against illness, disability, old age and death that I have spoken about.

The Nasir Bank appropriated to the people means of production valued at 60 million pounds and gave 21 million pounds in loans.

After reviewing all this with you, I now turn to the Arab situation. I could not meet with you and not talk about the Arab situation.

Sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, the first thing that faces us in the Arab situation--I say it with all the pain and sorrow--is the present catastrophe in Lebanon. As you recall, when the crisis began in 1975, I warned that matters would develop into the complete extermination of independent Lebanon. Hafiz al-Asad said that he went there in 1975 to defend the Palestinian resistance. He struck at the Palestinian resistance in Tall az-Za'tar, killing old people, women and children. He did that to the Palestinian resistance, which he went in to protect.

A little later he said: No, I am going to protect the Muslims, so he plundered and hit at the Muslims. Then he said: I want to protect the Christians. He hit the Christians. I want to protect the progressives. He killed Junblatt, leader of the progressives.

The present escalation in Lebanon is very serious. It places not only Lebanon but also the Arab nation and the Middle East region at the mercy of horrifying winds, the result of which only God knows.

On your anniversary in Suez in 1976 I said that the responsibility falls on the Lebanese leaders themselves and I said that we had warned and expected the catastrophe and that everything we anticipated happened.

Also, on 1 May 1976, on your anniversary, I said, verbatim, that the leaders of Lebanon should consider the consequences of indulging in their own interests and bickering, especially because this time they were doing it with arms, and that it was their duty to stop the catastrophe before the occurrence of what was bound to happen: the involvement of other sides and conflicts. I said this in 1976 on your anniversary in Suez. I said it then, when I spoke about the occurrence of what was bound to happen: the involvement of other parties.

Well, Israel has gotten into it in the past 4 or 5 days. Who opened the way for it? Undoubtedly, the Syrian actions, the negative Arab attitude, the Lebanese leaders, and all of us as Arabs are responsible for this.

What I warned about on 1 May 1976, on your anniversary in Suez, is happening now. Israel has moved in and is telling Hafiz al-Asad: You take such and such part and I take such and such. This is what we have heard. Of course, I hope this is not true. However, Israel's intervention is an extremely serious matter. What led to it was Syria's attitude, the negative Arab attitude, the Lebanese leaders and Lebanon's president, who is afraid to say to the world: Get Syria out of here. He is unable to say it and goes around and around and around it. If he were to say it, the Security Council would have sent an emergency force or emergency forces would have gone there from other places. What is important is that it would have had Syria's back to the wall, because Syria is the cause of all this. I said it to you, we said it together on 1 May 1976, on your anniversary in Suez.

Really, now I have nothing to say except to repeat what I declared to you on Workers Day 5 years ago: There is a dire need for a unified Arab effort to deal with the problem, an Arab effort that rises above the sensitivities and surpasses country and party boundaries, so that we may prevent the perpetuation of destruction and ruin. Not only Lebanon will be ruined and partitioned. The attitude of Syria, the attitude of the Lebanese leaders and government, and the negative attitude of the Arabs give Israel the opportunity to do what it wants.

The transfer of the policy of Arab blocs to Lebanon, which is, as you see, saturated with blood, has brought to Lebanon the catastrophe and the tragedy that we and the world at large around us are witnessing. I do not really want to say this, but the regrettable situation in Lebanon reflects the inevitable picture of Arab fragmentation and of the disputes and conflicts among the leaders at the expense of the entire cause.

They blame Camp David for their mistakes. For example, you have heard that there were explosions at a powerplant in Kuwait. Half the lines were knocked out and half of Kuwait was in darkness for 1 week until they repaired it. At another time a newspaper printing house was blown up. Whenever something happens, they blame it on Camp David, saying that Camp David was responsible for the blowing up of the newspaper and the powerplant. If two people talk together in the street, Camp David is blamed. It is all like this. Alright, Camp David is the reason.

Well, what do you think of what is happening in Lebanon, then? Did Camp David advocate this? In Camp David we called on all the parties to the conflict to extend their hands to us so that we may liberate the territory and fulfill the Palestinian people's rights. Was it Camp David that occupied Lebanon with a Syrian 'Alawite army? Was it Camp David that carried out the massacres in Lebanon? Was it Camp David that gave Iraq the decision to attack Iran? Was it Camp David that gave Al-Qadhdhafi the decision to intervene in Chad? Whenever someone has a problem, he blames it on Camp David.

In Camp David we advocated peace. Whoever advocates peace does not create a bloodbath in a helpless city.

Imagine Zahlah. It is like any other city here, say Tanta or other similar places. Hafiz al-Asad brings in the Syrian Army and equipment made for fighting, and he attacks Zahlah, an unarmed city, like Tanta, say. He cuts off the water supply and the food supply. There are women and children there as well as sick and old people. Food, water and medicine are withheld. It is exactly like the work of a gangster. A gangster with power facing others with no power.

So he goes in. These are the Arab rulers who are opposed to Camp David. When I say that I will not place the fate of the Arab nation and Egypt in the hands of such rulers, some find it strange. Well, of course, I do not want Tanta or the 15 May City to be surrounded by tanks one of these days. And then there is that boy on our borders in Libya who has really become, in the eyes of the world, something we are all sorry about. I will not place the fate of Egypt or the Arab nation in the hands of these children and adolescents like them, never.

Camp David advocates peace and advocates the rights of the Palestinian people and an end to the Israeli occupation. It says that the Israeli occupation, instead of being indefinite as the case is now, will have a final period of 5 years. Even during this 5-year transitional period the Palestinians will rule themselves.

This is Camp David. Camp David does not advocate bloodbaths, the siege of Zahlah, dealing blows to the Palestinians in Tall az-Za'tar, or adventures by Al-Qadhdhafi in Chad and with the Polisario and others. Camp David does not advocate Arab fragmentation.

On the contrary, we tell them as Arabs come, it is time for us to take a stand, we have been drawing your attention for 6 years, rather for 5 years, since the May Day 1976 speech in Suez. Let us now put the sensitivities aside and take a unified Arab stand to save Lebanon and save our reputation as Arabs, a reputation that is now in the mud because of these rulers.

The Camp David agreement does not advocate treachery or bloodshed. It advocates peace, the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people and the termination of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. [applause]

Here, in front of you on the occasion of your holiday, sons and daughters, I address this appeal to the Arab nation: Come, let us forget our rancors. Let them forget their petty nature and forget their sensitivity. Let some of them forget that money is everything and let the others forget that the force they possess is worth nothing because there is a much stronger force--the creator of the heavens and earth. [cheers]

I tell them all that we need to forget and sit for once selflessly for the sake of our Arab nation. If they cannot, my God bear witness that I have conveyed the message. [applause and cheers]

After this, I believe, sons, that we must come to the end. The truth is that Workers Day each year, as Sa'd said, is a turning point in the history of all our poeple. It has been a turning point for the past 10 years. The battle of the centers of power began 10 years ago. It was followed by the battle of the final closing of the detention camps, the constitution and the supremacy of the law. Everything which took place started on Workers Day, 1 May 1971.

Today, I was not supposed to say what I am about to say. Why? I want to tell you something, sons. You all heard that on 5 Ramadan, 5 days before the battle, I gathered the members of the National Security Council and told them that our economy was under zero. What did this mean? This meant that I had no money to buy wheat to bake bread. This was said in 1973.

God Almighty willed that we regain the canal. Your sons and brothers in the armed forces regained the canal for you. [applause] We reopened the canal and the United States honorably helped and supported us. It did so free of charge, not receiving one mill in return. It honorably supported us.

We reopened the canal, which has gradually increased its revenues from $400 million annually to the $1.2 billion it will take in this year, God willing, as you have read and heard.

The petroleum, I spoke to you about, my sons, will bring in a revenue of 1.94 billion pounds. This at a time when until 1975 I supplemented our needs for petroleum by purchasing it from abroad. Today, we consume 13 million tons annually and export 30 million tons. [applause] Thanks be to God.

I promised you on 1 May 1971 that Egypt will remain our possession, that its decisions will be ours, that its will will be ours and that its wealth will be justly distributed. No one has a bigger right over others except by the amount of his loyalty to Egypt.

Today, we must begin a process. If you remember, and as Sa'd said, the main changes affecting the entire people, and not you alone, have begun on your holidays. For example, we raised the minimum wages to 13 pounds on your holiday in May 1974. We increased it again to 16 pounds on your holiday in 1978, and then raised it to 20 pounds in 1980. Everything has taken place on your holiday and it has affected the entire country.

Well, sons, what are we going to do today? [applause] We will raise the minimum wage from 20 to 25 pounds. [applause] We will pay the allowances due in accordance with the laws that dealt with the effects of Law 83 and others. This way, the government will have fulfilled its promise to tackle all the effects of Law 83 in 1 year.

We will stop deducting one-quarter of the allowances. [applause] We will continue to earmark the allocations necessary for the employment of the graduates. The salary of recruits in the police and the armed forces will be raised from 4 to 6 pounds. We will continue to earmark the allocations necessary for incentive increases. The cost of living allowance, a minimum of 4 pounds, will be incorporated in the salaries of all. It will consist of 2 pounds general allowance, 2 pounds for the first child and 2 pounds for the second child. We will allocate a reserve to finance the decisions and laws relating to the settlement of the workers' conditions.

We will expand the periodic allowances so as not to be confined to annual salary and seniority increments, but also to link wages with prices. We have allocated a 150-million-pound reserve for this purpose.

We will increase workers' pensions from 10 to 30 percent, so that no pension will be less than 20 pounds. We will increase the pensions of others by no less than 10 percent. We will add allowances of no more than 500 pounds to salaries. We will allocate 25 million pounds to increase the number of beneficiaries from the As-Sadat pension fund from 1 million to 1.5 million citizens.

We will continue to subsidize basic commodities. This subsidy will increase from 1.5 billion to 2 billion pounds. By virtue of measures that are being adopted and prepared now, this subsidy will undoubtedly reach those who deserve it without any deviation.

The state will explain all that to you. [At this point commotion starts amid which As-Sadat is heard saying: I do not understand and I cannot hear you well. He then says] I will tell you something. Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq will tell you what you want to hear.

[As-Sadat then says to Ar-Razzaq] Tell them in detail.

[Ar-Razzaq] Your Excellency Mr President. The meaning of the decisions that you have announced is as follows: The minimum starting salary, which was 20 pounds, will, after the president's decision, be increased by 11 pounds and 70 piasters--an increase of 60 percent.

The starting salary of persons with medium qualifications, which today is 23 pounds, will become 35 pounds.

The starting salary of university graduates, which used to be 33 pounds, will now become 45.5 pounds.

The employee or worker whose wage today is 50 pounds will now earn 64 pounds.

The employee or worker whose wage today is 100 pounds will now get 121 pounds. All these indicate increases of from 21 to 60 percent.

[As-Sadat] There is one thing I want to tell you, my sons. Listen to me, my sons. The comparison between the increases you have just heard with the prices I saw today will gratify the entire world. Thus, keep the same prices.

[Here a person identified by a Cairo MENA in Arabic report as Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, minister of state for manpower and training and chairman of the workers federation, says] The private sector law has been submitted to the People's Assembly and will be enacted before the end of the current parliamentary session and, God willing, it will contain the annual increment.

[As-Sadat] My brothers and sisters, my sons and daughters. The deputy prime minister will also speak to you in detail on television tonight. However, rest assured that the salary of every one of you has been raised, as you have heard from the deputy prime minister.

My sons and daughters, the workers of Egypt: The workers' feast is the feast of the entire nation because it is the feast of sweat and the feast of the workers' right to the fruits of his sweat. Our nation builds with its sweat and our nation respects those who sweat.

We want the human being to live as a friend of life and that with love he should make life and work with hope for the future. Today, we are building and constructing. We are building the country and the human being. We are constructing the land and the human being.

My sons and daughters, the workers' feast is the feast of every family in Egypt. The entire Egyptian family is made up of workers and producers. The Egyptian family is made up of workers and producers. The Egyptian family is made up of a noble, generous, good, patient, bold and courageous people. This people deserves to reap the fruit of its toil. In fact we have begun, thank God, to reap these fruits.

God give you success. Peace and God's mercy be with you.

LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE AGENT TO BE TRIED 24 MAY

NC051118 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Alexandria, 5 May (MENA)--On 24 May, the supreme military court in Matruh will begin the trial of Libyan intelligence agent Kamil Mujawir 'Abd al-Karim, who was arrested by Egyptian security authorities while attempting to infiltrate into Egyptian territory to implement a Libyan plan hostile to Egypt.

The accused confessed during the preliminary investigation that he went to Libya, contacted Libyan intelligence and expressed his readiness to cooperate with it in implementing the anti-Egyptian plan, which was aimed at forcibly annexing the Egyptian western desert to Libya.

The accused added that he joined the Libyan intelligence office in Tobruk to enlist Matruh youths working in Libya, sending them to military training camps preparatory to assigning them subversive operations in Egypt.

The military prosecution charged the accused with several crimes, including contacting a foreign state to carry out hostile actions against Egypt and international bribery. The prosecution demanded the death sentence for the accused.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 327

JN051706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces have hit Iranian enemy concentrations hard in various parts of the front, particularly in Nowsud, inflicting heavy losses in both lives and equipment. Communique No 327 issued here this evening by the Armed Forces General Command said that Persian enemy losses in Nowsud alone were 117 dead. It added that known enemy losses during the past 24 hours were 241 dead and 2 tanks, 4 field guns, 4 vehicles, 5 observation posts, 3 ammunition stockpiles and 2 excavators destroyed, in addition to a large number of wounded. The following is the text of Communique No 327 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued to strike the forces of the ignorant racist Persian regime in the operational sectors. The following are the results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. A force belonging to our advance units attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the Nowsud region, killing 117 and wounding a large number.
B. Our units hit enemy troop concentrations in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahar region and forced them to flee, leaving behind 14 dead.
C. Eight were killed and one tank and one excavator were destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
D. Four were killed and one tank and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Mimak region opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. Two were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mehran region.
F. One of our units clashed with an enemy infantry force in the Dezful region, hitting it with all weapons and forcing it to retreat, killing 33 and wounding a large number.
G. Our units hit enemy concentrations and positions in the Shush region, killing 48 and destroying 1 field gun; 3 vehicles, 1 carrying personnel; 2 observation posts; and 2 ammunition stockpiles.
H. Two were killed and one excavator was destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
I. Our units hit enemy concentrations and positions hard with various weapons in the Abadan region, killing 13 and destroying 1 tank, 3 field guns, 1 vehicle and 2 observation posts.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 241 dead, a large number of wounded and 2 tanks, 4 field guns, 4 vehicles, 2 excavators, 5 observation posts and 3 ammunition stockpiles destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 27 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two personnel carriers, five vehicles and one field gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 May 1981

ANTI-IRAQ RADIO ATTACKS TALABANI'S NATIONAL UNION

JN011927 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1535 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPR] in Iraq has issued a clarification of the stand of the Kurdistan National Union on the raids carried out by armed men in (Shar Bajir) and the (Turin) region in As-Sulaymaniyah.

Dear struggling Iraqi people and steadfast Kurdish people. Our Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Iraq has not and will not spare any effort to topple the dictator regime in order to establish a democratic coalition rule in Iraq under which a real autonomy would be established.

The party will not shy away from working with all the Kurdish and Iraqi nationalist forces [words indistinct] and measure up to the historical responsibilties laid upon its shoulders. Our party has always been more than ready to form and expand the national front. This is a fact. Our party is trying to strengthen the ranks of the Kurdish and Iraqi nationalist forces. Regrettably, the Jalal Talabani group is working to split the unity of the nationalist line.

On 4 April 1980, after 1 year of the progressive trend of our party's movement, the party's Political Bureau issued a historic statement which explained the disorderly and destructive role of the National Union in instigating sedition and chaos. Despite this we did not confront the National Union as we should have. It was and still is the main obstacle in the way of forming the democratic national and patriotic front in Iraq. The National Union considers our party, the largest influential force in the Kurdish and Iraqi arenas, its arch enemy. This has been its stance since its establishment in 1975. The stand of the Kurdistan National Union is the best proof, along with its daily practices from 1975 to date.

Last summer the groups of our peshmergas in Balikiyan and (Khushnow) suffered great losses due to our instructions preventing them from fighting any Kurdish or Iraqi force. We said all rifles should be directed at the fascist Iraqi regime. Last autumn when our forces infiltrated the interior of the country, the National Union began to create sedition, disturbances and riots. The other nationalist forces were informed of what had happened. At the time, we, with a positive spirit, submitted the proposals of the four-member Committee for National Relations, but the National Union showed a negative spirit. Despite this, our party Political Bureau's statement explained the delicate circumstances witnessed by the 26 May nationalist and patriotic revolution. In order to avoid any harm to the Iraqi Democratic national and Patriotic Front, our forces evacuated the positions where Iraqi democratic and Nationalist forces were present and which [words indistinct] the National Union's presence [words indistinct] and its practices against our party.

If the National Union really wants to play a nationalist role, why does it not direct its rifles against the fascist Iraqi regime? We say that if the National Union does not stop its practices against us and abandon its stand of considering our party its arch enemy, it will put itself in insurmountable trouble. We will not forgive them another time.

Honorable citizens in Kurdistan and Iraq; the Jalal Talabani group, in the name of the Kurdistan National Union, has been sowing sedition and practicing sabotage against the national unity of the revolutionary powers in Kurdistan and Iraq. The National Union is still trying to push these powers toward fratricide and, hence, is antagonizing our party and causing much harm to the peshmerga and to the unity of the nationalist powers within the framework of the national front.

Once more, and instead of directing their guns toward the dictatorial regime, the armed elements of the National Union are directing their guns toward our party's peshmerga, who are defending the Iraqi People's democratic rights and are fighting for the achievement of genuine self-rule in Kurdistan.

A few weeks ago the National Union's armed elements launched aggressive attacks on units of our peshmerga and blocked the roads in the areas of (Shar Bajir) and (Turin) in the As-Sulaymaniyah Province. We did not publish the news of those attacks then and preferred to remain silent until we could get all the details and the entire truth about what had happened. Recently we received the following news about those attacks and we hereby announce to Iraqi public opinion and to all the nationalist forces in Iraq and Kurdistan:

A few months ago we dispatched several units of the peshmerga of the third and fourth branches of our party to the interior of the country to carry out their duty in the area of As-Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk. On 7 April 1981 as our peshmerga were taking positions in the village of (Farkh) in the area of (Turin), the National Union's armed elements launched an attack on our peshmerga at 1600.

The National Union's armed elements were led by (Hammah Rashah), who is working under the criminal Mallah Bakhtiar. The inhabitants of the village can stand as witnesses to the attempts which were made by our peshmerga in order to avoid the fratricide. Yet the National Union's armed elements began firing on our peshmerga using Kalashnikov rifles and hand grenades. Our peshmerga were then forced to return their fire and a clash erupted between the two sides which resulted in replusing the attackers. Our peshmerga captured the following armed men of the National Union: Mallah Amin Qadir, Sardar 'Ali, Faraj, Bakhtiar Ma'ruf, Azad Ahmad, 'Umar 'Ali Amin, 'Abdallah Sa'id, Piks 'Abd ar-Rahman Muhammad and Jujah Mahmud. Our peshmerga also seized the Kalashnikov rifles of the aforementioned National Union's elements. Later our peshmerga released four of those elements.

During this clash one of the National Union's elements, Basim Hajjah, was killed and his body remained on the battlefield. The inhabitants of the village of (Farkh) are aware of the fact that this National Union element was buried according to the teachings of Islam in cooperation with the village's inhabitants. We hold Jalal Talabani and Mallah Bakhtiar as well as the National Union responsible for the killing of Basim Hajjah.

On 18 April 1981 when peshmerga groups of our party's fourth branch were in the (Shar Bajir) region on their way from (Bayana) village to neighboring (Mayana) village, armed men of the National Union opened fire on them. A major clash ensued which lasted from 1630 to 1930. Although the armed men outnumbered our peshmergas, the aggressors were defeated and sustained heavy losses. A total of 7 of them were killed and 12 others wounded. Two of our valiant peshmergas were wounded and immortal martyr Sharif Khalah, a battalion commander, and immportal martyr Nariman Gharib Ibrahim, a troop leader, were martyred.

Honest citizens, it is indeed regrettable that instead of telling you about our fedayeen activities and the blows they are dealing to the enemy and his agents, the anti-national stands of the National Union are forcing us to tell you about the war among the brothers. This regrettable war is due to the erroneous, undemocratic and treasonous stands of Jalal Talabani and his union which considers our party as its main enemy.

Once again we would like to warn against this war among brothers. The masses of the Kurdish people in particular and the Iraqi people in general denounce and condemn this war. We would like to tell the armed men and supporters of the National Union that we hold their union--Jalal's union--responsible for all this killing. Henceforth, we will not accept any of their acts of aggression against our party and peshmergas.

Long live the militant struggle of Kurdistan's peshmergas who are standing fast against the Iraqi dictatorial regime. Down with world imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialsm, Zionism and reaction. Long live the joint struggle of all the forces and patriotic parties of the Iraqi people which are struggling to form and expand the front to overthrow the dictatorial regime and establish a democratic coalition rule in Iraq and real autonomy in Kurdistan.

[Signed] The Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Iraq, 28 April 1981

KHADDAM, OFFICIALS, FACTIONS MEET, MAKE COMMENTS

Meetings Held

NC051420 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] The second round of conciliation consultations were resumed this morning, for the second day running, under President Ilyas Sarkis, in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Consultations were held today with the Chamber of Deputies blocs and officials to learn their views and concepts of the bases that should be adopted to start a conciliatory dialogue among the parties concerned in the Lebanese arena.

At 0915 today consultations began with Deputies Sulayman 'Ali, Kazim al-Khalil, Dr Albert Mansur and Fu'ad Naffa'. Later, consultations were held with the deputies of Zahlah and Western Al-Biqa', headed by Defense Minister Joseph Skaf and including Deputies Salim al-Ma'luf, Hasan Zahmul al-Mays, Michel al-Ma'luli and Husayn Mansur Salim ad-Dawud.

At 1100 President Sarkis, Prime Minister al-Wazzan and the Lebanese and Syrian foreign ministers, Butrus and Khaddam, received the Phalangist deputies bloc, headed by Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, and including Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Dr George Sa'adah and Edmund Rizq.

At 1200 President Sarkis received the An-Nabatiyah deputies bloc, which included Dr Rafio Shahin and 'Abd al-Latif az-Zayn.

At 1215 President Sarkis received Deputy Husayn al-Husayni. At 1230 the delegation of the deputies of the national struggle front--which included Fu'ad at-Tahini, Farid Jubran, Tawfiq 'Assaf and Alim 'Abd an-Nur--arrived at the palace for talks. A deputy, priest Rev Si'an ad-Duwayhi, arrived at the palace for talks later.

At 1300 the delegation of the independent deputies bloc, headed by Deputy Speaker Munir Abu Fadil and including Michael az-Zahir, Albert Mukhaybir, Salih Al-Khayr, 'Uthman ad-Dana, Zaki Mazbudi, Hamid (?Dakrub), Subhi Yaghi, Imil Rohana Saqr and 'Ali al-Abdallah, conferred with Sarkis and his party. President Sarkis then received Deputy Col Fu'ad Lahhud and Deputy Najah Wakim.

Deputies' Comments

NC052014 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 May 81

[Excerpts] The consultations to achieve accord resumed this morning. President Sarkis received Deputy Sulayman al-'Ali. Al-'Ali said after the meeting that accord cannot be established without achieving security. He said: I am of the opinion that security must be established before accord because the people want to be reassured about their lives, property and future. After that, accord can be achieved.

President Sarkis then received Deputy Dr Albert Mansur, who gave his views on national accord. He said: I stressed that the Israeli role is trying to obstruct the accord process. All parties must exert their efforts to remove the effects of this negative role. After that, the national accord desired by all the Lebanese can be achieved.

On behalf of Zhalah and Western Al-Biqa' deputies, Defense Minister Skaf said: I have reaffirmed our support for the 14 principles of accord and demanded that they be implemented quickly in order to gain Lebanese sovereignty throughout Lebanon. As for the security issue, we have stated that the Lebanese people are eager to see quick and effective measures adopted to consolidate security, to open roads, public utilities, schools and universities.

He said: We raised the question of Zahlah and Al-Biqa' and asked that the siege of the city be lifted so that normal life in Zahlah can be restored to its previous level. We agreed with Foreign Minister Khaddam to hold another meeting devoted to discussing the issue of Zahlah and Al-Biqa' in detail.

Accordingly, a second meeting was held at 1730 among Foreign Minister Khaddam and Ministers Skaf and Al-Hirawi and Deputy Michel Ma'luli. During the meeting they discussed the Zahlah issue.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil linked the positive aspects of the forthcoming stage and the extent of accord achieved. He rejected the accusations about cooperation with Israel. He called for ridding Lebanon of the ordeal that has exchausted the Lebanese people. He said: I have felt that Syria wants to emerge from the impasse and that Lebanon wants to cooperate with the Arab world, particularly with Syria within the framework of its independence and freedom. He said Syria must help and understand Lebanon. He concluded his statement by saying that there is a positive agreement between Syria and Lebanon to emerge from the ordeal. He expressed his optimism about the meetings.

At 1315, President Sarkis received the delegation of the independent Chamber of Deputies bloc, which included Munir Abu Fadil, Albert Mukhaybir, 'Uthman ad-Dana, Zaki Mazbudi, Emile Ruhan Saqr, Michel az-Zahir, 'Ali al-'Abdallah, Subhi Yaghi, Hamid Dakrub and Salih al-Khayr. After the meeting, deputy Abu Fadil said on behalf of the independent bloc: [begin recording] During the meeting we concentrated on the need for a Lebanese-Syrian agreement on unified views to confront the fateful danger facing all of us at this historic stage. There must be close cooperation in various fields between both countries embodying this unified pan-Arab strategy and views. We have concentrated on the need for joint action to save Lebanon once and for all from the current crisis. This can only be achieved through the government's regaining all its powers, which were usurped from it beginning with the security issue and other essential every day functions of the government. This is the basis and the urgent national demand at this particular time. [end recording]

After that, President Sarkis received Deputy Najah Wakim. After the meeting Wakim said: [Begin recording] My views today were the same as they have always been: No group will abandon its links or interests even if they were illegal unless there is a strong and effective government, a government that has a position to force this group to abandon its (?interests). If we continue our method of satisfying all parties, we will satisfy none. Anyone who deviates from the course of the legitimate government must be struck at.

The government must have a position. For example, Israel is threatening Lebanon. This threat constitutes an aggression. Israel is not threatening the Arab Deterrent Forces but Lebanon. Syria has declared its stand and Israel has declared its stand. The Lebanese Government, however, did not declare its stand. Is this right or admissible? The absence of a Lebanese Government stand gives Israel a cover to strike at Lebanon and threaten the ADF. If we declare our stand, the friendly countries in the world may adopt a firmer stand in our support and the enemy forces may also be (?deterred) or hesitate to strike at Lebanon. It is a tragedy that the government is without a stand.

As for the way of reaching a solution, I have stated that the government must declare its stand. It must draw up the principles of accord and announce how the principles must be carried out. The government must submit its program to the Chamber of Deputies. After that the deputies can vote, object or approve.

Anyone who objects by force must be confronted by force. We cannot use the pretext that we have no force. We have force. We spend 1 and 1/4 billion pounds annually on the army in order to use the army when needed. There is also the ADF, which is capable of striking. Anyone who objects by force must be confronted by force; and who objects by opinion must be faced with opinion on democracy.

I believe that if the government does not adopt a decisive and clear stand without resorting to any party, particularly foreign countries [words indistinct]. The United States is one of the causes of the plight of this homeland.

We must not submit to Israel's will and threats. We must seek the help of our brothers, particularly since Syria is using all its weight for the sake of Lebanon. There are other friendly countries in the world. The Soviet Union is a friendly state.

I do not know why John Gunther Dean (?stays) in the Republican Palace. This is inadmissible because the United States is our enemy. [end recording]

Sarkis then received Deputy Edward Hunayn, who said: [Begin recording] I have stated and participated in a statement released by the Lebanese Front on 23 December 1980 that no dialogue can take place under the threat of Syrian weapons. Today I have come to repeat this and I have done so. However, I added that all my fellows and I wholeheartedly support a dialogue that can result in a firm cease-fire. When I was asked what I meant by firm cease-fire I said: I know your excellency the president and I know your excellency the minister and I know your intentions, but I do not know the intentions of the others. [end recording]

Al-Wazzan's Comments

NC051902 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan left the Republican Palace at 1830. The following dialogue took place between Prime Minister al-Wazzan and journalists:

[Begin recording] The time is not ripe yet to reveal the views of the Lebanese Government as long as we are still holding talks and contacts. I would like to praise the atmosphere of the talks held today, particularly our talks with the deputies. We were keen on meeting the various blocs of the Chamber of Deputies because we insist that the Lebanese Government must play its role in all establishments. The meetings with the deputies were very useful, particularly since they have demonstrated a splendid patriotic stand regarding both the accord and the other thorny issues facing us, especially regarding Israel.

Israel wants to impede the accord. Israel thinks that the Lebanese people are stupid. The Lebanese have proved that they are a very aware people. They convinced everyone that, by its acts, Israel cannot affect the Lebanese people's unity or deceive them. Israel cannot deceive the international community by claiming that it is protecting one faction of the Lebanese people. The Lebanese people are protected by their genuine national unity. They know for sure who is their enemy: Their historical enemy is Israel.

On this occasion we are surprised by this hullabaloo Israel is raising in the international media regarding its existence and claims of defending its security. We cannot understand how Israel allows itself every day to carry out aggressive overflights throughout Lebanon, violating our airspace, wreaking havoc and striking at our people here, in the south, and everywhere. Despite this Israel is surprised that there are people who defend this land, whether Lebanese or Arab brothers. This is rejected by us as officials and by our unified Lebanese people.

[Question] From your statement we understand that the recent developments have delayed the implementation of some of your measures in Lebanon?

[Answer] This is not true. I do not think there is any delay in our march, which is proceeding on its normal course. No one must expect the problems that have been continuing for 6 years [to be solved overnight].

The events of the past 6 years had many causes and accumulations that paved the way for these events. Some people think that the past few hours were the decisive hours to solve all the problems, as if we are healing things like the Prophet Muhammad or Christ. All the grave and great events that Lebanon has encountered, which exposed its sovereignty and and unity to danger, must, this time, be ended through a comprehensive solution. We are sincerely, patiently and persistently working to achieve this. We have a true hope that we will reach a solution, God willing.

Despite the fact that certain people spread pessimistic or gloomy statements, I maintain that today we are more optimistic than at any time before, particularly after today's contacts and the true intention we have felt. The Lebanese may at times differ, but in time of danger they are aware and united. [end recording]

Khaddam Press Conference

NC051848 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 May 81

[Damascus Domestic Service at 2115 GMT on 5 May carried an announcer-read text of the press conference below]

[Text] The concilation consultations ended at 1530 today when President Sarkis invited Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Minister Fu'ad Butrus for lunch.

The Syrian minister made the following statements in response to the questions of reporters shortly before he left Beirut for Damascus at 1600:

[Begin recording] [Question] Your Excellency the Minister: All attention was focused in the past 2 days on B'abda Palace, where President Sarkis held more conciliatory consultations in your presence. Is it possible for us to herald to the Lebanese people tonight any practical steps as a translation of these consultations?

[Answer] President Sarkis has made good steps along the path of consultation and the search for practical ways to restore security and peace to Lebanon. During these discussions, we managed to explore, or rather lay our hands on, the practical ways to help this. During our meetings I submitted to his excellency the president, Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Brother Fu'ad Butrus Syria's views on the practical methods which would restore security and peace to all of Lebanon, starting with the need to resort to all means in all directions to strengthen the state and its insitutions and also to consolidate the spirit of accord and concilation among all the Lebanese sides. I can say that I emerged at the end of today's meetings more optimistic than the last time.

I expect to return to Beirut on Saturday, at the latest, in order to follow up the discussion of the practical issues, which have become clear now.

I reiterate that I am more optimistic today than I was at the last meeting, particularly because all those we have met exhibited a high national determination to end this affliction in Lebanon. We are optimistic, God willing.

[Question] Does this mean that there is an agreement in the Syrian view and the Lebanese view on the practical steps, both on the concilation and security levels?

[Answer] Naturally, neither we nor the Lebanese state side work in a vacuum. We work on the basis of the discussions that were held with the various sides and on the basis of the persistent goal--the achievement of national accord. We also work from the premise that the conciliation and dialogue are the basis for ending the Lebanese crisis. Consequently, we believe there is no difference or a distance between the views I submitted and the views that his excellency the president will crystallize with Prime Minister al-Wazzan, Minister Butrus and the Lebanese Government. I say that we will not proceed from a vacuum but from the same concept and we have the same problems and that we will naturally reach the same remedy.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, there were some who demanded conciliation before security, and others who demanded security before conciliation. Have you reached a practical agreement as a result of these consultations with the Lebanese side?

[Answer] Actually, there is an agreement between us and the Lebanese side that conciliation and security are two interlinked issues. The security issue is a political one and consequently the security issue is interlinked with the political issue. Furthermore, a view of how to tackle the security situation would help the view of how to tackle the political issue. The solution of the security problem must be a political one. I believe this is the sound course.

In addition, there will be a winning group and a losing group. History has proved that when there are two groups contesting an issue in an arena, one group will emerge as a winner and the other will emerge as the loser. This is a stage for a new battle. Consequently, we and the Lebanese state hold an identical view that the crisis should end with all emerging as winners only, and that all should contribute what they must to the homeland because all would be victorious when the homeland triumphs.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, there are some security affairs that remain persistent in the Lebanese arena. Will these affairs remain suspended until conciliation is achieved?

[Answer] No, the treatment is comprehensive. The security issue, which is the more persistent, falls within the comprehensive treatment. When dealing with the political issue, including the security issue, it is not possible to delay the implementation of the security issue, it is not possible to delay the implementation of the security measures until after the implementation of the political measures. The security issue is more persistent, but its solution comes within the framework of the political solution of the entire problem.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, there are new international developments. Two days ago, Israel said that there are conditions for the withdrawal of the SAM missiles from Al-Biqa'. We would like your reaction to these developments, such as the SAM missile issue.

[Answer] This is ridiculous. Israel seeks the safety of its aircraft in order to strike the peaceful people in Lebanon. It is the right of Israel to strike peaceful people and attack Lebanon, but it is not the right of the deterrent forces, the legitimate forces, to answer the Israeli raids. This is stupid logic, and it will not be a subject of discussion.

[Question] Are there SAM missiles in Al-Biqa'?

[Answer] It is our opinion that there is no question of missiles. There is the question of Israeli aggression against Lebanon, its sovereignty and people. There is an Israeli determination to harm a group of the Lebanese. We believe that there is nobody in Lebanon who does not consider Israel as a historical enemy, and who does not take into consideration that all the Lebanese are the target of this historical enemy. These are Israel's plans, as we all know.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, It has been said in this regard that U.S. diplomatic efforts are being exerted with Syria to tackle the issue. Where have these efforts reached?

[Answer] In what regard?

[Question] Regarding the recent military escalation between Israel and Syria in the skies of Lebanon.

[Answer] This matter is not up to us. If the Americans want to play a useful and beneficial role, they they must stop their aid to Israel and exert pressure on it. You know that hundreds of tons of bombs are dropped on southern Lebanon and on the Lebanese and the Palestinians. I believe that they constitute a part of Lebanon and the Lebanese presence. If the United States wants to do something useful, then it must exert pressure on Israel to desist from its continuous aggression against the sovereignty of Lebanon, its land and people.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, Have you reached a solution concerning the city of Zahlah?

[Answer] The fact is that the issue of Zahlah is receiving great attention by his excellency the president, Al-Biqa' deputies and, naturally, the Syrian side. We seek to implement the agreement which was reached at Shtawrah a few days ago. I believe that this agreement must be implemented because this would help the adoption of new steps that would consolidate security in the Al-Biqa' district.

[Question] Some information media said that you have met with Bashir al-Jumayyil. Is it true that you have met with Bashir al-Jumayyil?

[Answer] Actually, there is nothing to prevent me from meeting with Bashir al-Jumayyil or any other Lebanese brother. However, the program of meetings did not provide for such a meeting. I say that there is nothing at all which prevents a meeting with any of the brothers in the Lebanese arena.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, could you tell us what the Syrian views are that you submitted to President Sarkis?

[Answer] These views are the possession of President Sarkis and they do not belong to me or you.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, in a previous statement you said that the Lebanese issue cannot last another month or more. Do you still hold this opinion?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] The Lebanese expected to see some security steps implemented on site, at least, during the visit.

[Answer] We are now tackling matters in a radical manner. Small steps which could be a prelude to big explosions are absolutely not required. What is required is to finally defuse the situation and establish permanent and lasting peace and security in the country.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, will there be steps that will be implemented on site this Saturday?

[Answer] We will meet next Saturday to discuss the implementation of steps on site, God willing.

[Question] Will you carry out other contacts with Lebanese parties or functionaries?

[Answer] If necessary.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister, it has been learned that Syria has agreed to the arrival of a U.S. envoy, who will arrive in Damascus in a few days; he is Philip Habib. On what basis has Syria accepted to receive the U.S. envoy?

[Answer] We receive anyone who wishes to come to us and discuss any topic; he is welcome. The U.S. side has requested the dispatch of two such envoys, and we said welcome. If they want to see and hear the facts and work on their basis, then this is good; and if they only want to see the Israeli angle, then this would not be useful to the United States or to the region.

SYRIAN-LEBANESE TALKS SAID STUCK OVER ZAHLAH

NC051145 Paris AFP in English 1724 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Beirut, 5 May (AFP)--Syrian-Lebanese negotiations have made some progress, but remain stuck over the question of the Christian city of Zahlah, a well-informed source said here today. The Christian "Lebanese forces" refuse to evacuate the city, as this would mean confessing the failure of their military operations during the past four weeks.

At the same time, the besieging Syrians do not want to leave the hills dominating the city. The Syrian population would see this as a retreat under Israeli threat.

Another problem is the Syrian demand that the "Lebanese forces" undertake to break off relations with Israel. The "Lebanese forces" do not want to discard the "Israeli card" before reaching an agreement with Syria. Nor do they want to publicly admit links with Israel.

BISHOPS MAKE STATEMENT ON AL-BIQA' VIOLENCE

NC052040 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] The bishops of Zahlah have issued a statement in which they condemned the operations which took place yesterday that claimed the lives of six persons from the Zahlah villages. The statement reads:

The most important of the bloody events which have continued after the Zahlah war was the one that took place yesterday in the villages of Jdita, Ta'lbaya and Shtawrah in which six of our innocent Christian sons were killed. These events place before us the following considerations:

1. The situation in Zahlah continues to be very serious and prompts us to wonder about the usefulness of the talks that are taking place in an atmosphere of violence, terror and tension.
2. Our sons in the Al-Biqa' villages are threatened and our main roads remain closed to them and to the sons of Zahlah. We wonder about the plans that are behind all this.
3. These actions will prompt some groups to leave their areas and will prevent any meetings and contact among the sons of certain areas with the homeland. Furthermore, we strongly condemn every attack and denounce every attempt to sow division. We are keen on the freedom of our sons and of all compatriots regarding their struggle for a life in which reassurance and dignity prevail.

CHRISTIAN UNIONS ISSUE STATEMENT; SHAM'UN COMMENTS

NC051554 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] A short while ago, the Union of the Lebanese Christian Leagues and the research committee in Al-Kaslik issued an important statement defining the attitude of the Christians toward the current events in the Lebanese arena as follows:

Amid the dangers threatening our freedom, dignity, existence and destiny at this historic juncture from the depth of the tragedy that has befallen our people for the past 6 years, and is still raging in the form of shelling, destruction, killings, refugees and attempts to commit genocide and considering that all that is taking place at the surface of events distorts their reality and borders on the labyrinths of deception in order to distract attention from the essence of the issue, the Union of the Lebanese Christian Leagues and the research committee in Al-Kaslik find it necessary to bring the following facts to the attention of the world conscience:

1. The Lebanese resistance, which is holding out before those who want to swallow, divide, cut off or annex any particle of the homeland's soil, rejects any plan aimed at harming national dignity and Lebanese sovereignty over and above the land of the homeland. This resistance in self-defense should continue, and the support of the people who believe in the sovereignty of the homeland and the dignity of its sons should also continue.

2. The Syrian occupation and the savage attacks on peaceful Christians that accompanied it, as well as the overt interference in Lebanon's affairs that preceded it, remains the primary factor in the exacerbation of the situation. This occupation must end, for there will be no life, freedom or dignity so long as every alien usurper or occupier does not leave the homeland. The well-being and security of any state or people can never come before or above Lebanon's security and the well-being of its people.

3. The concentration on national accord and the clamor that has been raised around it are a camouflage for Lebanon's basic problem and its causes: The war in Lebanon was never a civil war between Muslims and Christians and any differences or accord between them is an internal Lebanese matter, which no person other than the Lebanese has anything to do with. It is only the non-Lebanese who exacerbate the differences and exploit the accord.

4. We are with accord. However, accord can only be discussed in an atmosphere of reassurance and in a climate of complete freedom--the freedom of the people and the land--and of independence in decisionmaking.

This will only be possible when all the alien usurpers and occupiers withdraw from the land of the homeland.

After the meeting of the Union of Christian Leagues and the research committee, [former] President Camille Sham'un answered a question on his nonparticipation in the second round of the B'abda palace talks. He said: There must be something wrong in the rationality of the one who tests what has already been tested. The question is no more than a waste of time and harmful to dignity. Thus, I will not go to the presidential palace.

HADDAD ATTACKS SYRIA, DEFENDS ISRAELI COOPERATION

NC060911 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 May 81

[6 May statement made to the radio correspondent by free Lebanon commander Major Haddad--read by announcer]

[Text] I say to the Syrians, led by Hafiz al-Asad, that they or any non-Lebanese have no right to ask any Lebanese whether or not be cooperates or deals with Israel or any other party. If anyone has such a right, it is only the legitimate, sovereign and independent Lebanese authority--although such authority is nonexistent at present. The whole world has become aware of this fact.

However, just to enlighten the public opinion we say that we cooperate with Israel openly to liberate Lebanon from its Syrian occupants and their terrorist followers. However, it must be known that no other flag flies over free Lebanon except the Lebanese flag, and we will sacrifice everything in order to safeguard it and keep it flying high in the sky alone, respected and dignified. It is the traitors, however, who are dealing with the Syrian occupier and the terrorists in order to destroy Lebanon completely. They accept seeing the Syrian and Palestinian flags fly over Lebanese territory. It should be recalled that Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly announced that he had entered Lebanon without anyone's permission. In other words, he entered it by force, just like any other invading force.

To those who cast doubt on Israel's good intentions toward the Christians in Lebanon and those who note the bad treatment which the Israeli Christians receive, we say that the Jews have not killed a single Christian in Israel because of his identity, although we know that, to date, the Christians in Israel have displayed no loyalty to Israeli rule--contrary to other communities, like the honorable Druze community, for example. In Lebanon we have not found any Christian state to help us and prevent our extermination. Only Israel has done so. On the other hand, we have seen the Syrians directly or indirectly through their followers destroying Ad-Damur, Al-Jiyyah, As-Sa'diyyat, Al-'Ayshiyah, Al-Qa', Rahbah, Ta'Labayah, Jdita, Zahlah and others and considering the Lebanese who remain in the areas under their influence hostages--for slaughter, when necessary--as they have recently done in the Zahlah area and in the crimes they committed in Ad-Duq and the 'Alayh District, particularly in Salima and the other areas.

Therefore, we are convinced of what we are doing, and will continue doing what we are doing until the Syrian occupation forces are evacuated from Lebanon completely.

ISRAELI FORCES REPORTEDLY CROSS BORDER 5 MAY

NC052128 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] In a dispatch from the south tonight, the AFP reports that 50 Israeli armored military vehicles crossed the Lebanese-Israeli border during the past 36 hours and took up positions in some Lebanese villages near the border. The agency adds that these units, which took up positions in the area of Marj 'Uyun, Al-Khiyah, Kafr Killa, and Al-Qulay'ah, are equipped with heavy artillery. Correspondents operating in the western sector report that Israeli forces have replaced the border militia forces near the dams between An-Naqurah and Marj 'Uyun. The same source adds that a site for helicopters in Umm ar-Rabb, opposite the western sector, has been prepared and that radar equipment has been installed for this purpose.

DAMASCUS SAYS RED LINE DISREGARDED IN ADF DUTIES

JN051540 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 May 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It was not unexpected for the United States and Israel to make such feverish moves against Lebanon and Syria, particularly since there are realities encouraging the achievement of Lebanese national accord. Indeed, a national accord that is based on sound bases represents a strong bastion that would protect Lebanon from its enemies, who have ambitions in it and aim to divide and distribute it among themselves, thus paving the way for subjugating the Arab region to imperialist and Zionist ambitions. Such goals and ambitions range from liquidation of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights to consolidation of the Israeli occupation of Arab territory.

For the accord process to proceed with firm steps on firm ground, conviction, even belief, must be held in the need to sift Lebanon's friends from its enemies. It must also be conceded that Israel is the historical enemy of Lebanon and the Lebanese people and that any move by this enemy toward Lebanon is only for the purpose of achieving its expansionist ambitions at the expense of the Lebanese people's national rights.

Then comes the second step, namely, conducting national dialogue on all the other details pertaining to the restoration of normalcy to all the Lebanese territories, proceeding from the premise of the Lebanese legitimacy's right to restore its powers. Following this step, preventative measures must be adopted in order to stop Lebanon's enemies, particularly the Israeli enemy, from repeating their attempts to fragment Lebanese national ranks and win over any side to it with the purpose of using this side to exacerbate the situation with the other sides.

President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed that the achievement of the process of national accord in Lebanon is mainly the responsibility of the Lebanese political elements and sides. He also stressed that Syria would spare no effort or capability to help these elements and sides overcome the obstacles impeding the accord process.

It is clear that the Israeli enemy was disturbed by the sincere and serious Arab Syrian stand and thus proceeded to launch attacks on the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in an attempt to impede all conciliatory efforts and to cooperate with the United States in fabricating an illusory crisis that is associated with the so-called Syrian procedures in Lebanon. All these acts were a result of Syria's determination to continue its conciliatory efforts.

Israel's attack on the ADF is in essence an attack on Lebanese legitimacy and its efforts to achieve accord and restore normalcy to all the Lebanese territories. Furthermore, this is clearly an attack on Syria not only because of the presence of Syrian units within the ADF framework but also because of the ADF's mission, namely, to abort the Zionist scheme aiming to divide Lebanon. In truth, this scheme's subsequent steps aim to undermine Syria's national security and strike at Syria's steadfastness.

Thus it was Syria's right, even its duty, to guarantee the necessary protection for the ADF in the face of the Israeli attacks and to disregard the lies being circulated by the Zionists and their allies on the presence of red and other lines in the face of the ADF's duties or the range of these forces' deployment.

At this current and decisive state it is necessary for some of the leaders of the Lebanese peoples to harbor sincere national intentions with regard to Lebanon's future. Furthermore, all available efforts should be exerted in order to abort the U.S.-Zionist attempts to infiltrate the deliberations being held to achieve accord.

No doubt that Syria only wishes for Lebanon and its fraternal people what it wishes for itself and its people. Syria will remain, as usual, Lebanon's twin, supporter in its difficulties and its savior. Thus, where the achievement of national accord is concerned, Syria will exert all possible efforts in order to restore Lebanon's vigor and comfort to the souls of its sons--the brothers of the future, fate and common goal.

U.S.-ISRAELI 'DECISIONS' ON LEBANON REJECTED

JN051458 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] We are the decisionmakers as well as the possessors of a just and legitimate right. This is how leader Al-Asad addressed our nation's masses, stressing that the conspiratorial scheme would not be stronger than the will of the Arab nation's masses and their outlook on victory. If reaction, which is collaborating with imperialism and Zionism, has renewed its desperate attempts to peddle the plot, benefiting from the enemies of Lebanon--people and land--Arab Syria possesses such power to make decisions that render it the stronger as long as justice is the stronger.

At a time when the leadership of this steadfast country is seeking to achieve Lebanese national accord for the welfare of Lebanon firstly and the central Arab cause of Palestine secondly, the forces of apostasy and hesitation have emerged into the Arab arena in order to lead and implement the Zionist scheme contrary to the will of all the Arabs. When the United States, in its capacity as the maker of the strategy of aggression in the region, noticed that it could intensify reactionary efforts, it resorted, through its officials' statements, to the method of old colonialism in an attempt to circumvent the forces of progress and freedom on the one hand by its military bases and the movement of its fleets and on the other by inciting agent regimes to act as a spearhead against Syria, the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement.

As soon as France and Washington failed to internationalize the Lebanese situation, the trumpets of the conspirators in Amman and Baghdad blared out their loyalty to the ideas of the apostate leader in Egypt, who had received instructions from Alexander Haig written and drafted in accordance with the U.S. demands. Syria, which is no longer taken in by the so-called accord as offered by the U.S., realizes quite well that reaction is merely performing its job as a servant of the imperialist and Zionist quarters. Out of this enlightened realization of the nature of the plot, Syria has for some time decided to create a strategic balance in the region that guarantees the Arabs their right to their usurped homeland. Therefore, Syria remains--as leader Al-Asad has frequently stressed--the decisionmaker and will not under any circumstance have the decision dictated to it.

In light of the realities and provocative Zionist moves and suspect reactionary encroachments, the red and green lines spoken of the Zionist enemy and U.S. circles are only the creation of their own imaginations since Arabs alone decide their fate and future and cannot under any pressure accept Washington's dictates and imagination. When Washington and all parties to plotting declare their desire to maintain Lebanon's peace and security, they will never be more eager than Syria and the Arab nation's masses for Lebanon's security, territorial integrity and independence.

Those following up the region's events realize that Washington has actually not done anything since Israel used Sa'd Haddad as a tool to occupy parts of southern Lebanon. How can the United States then be eager for Lebanon's independence and unity? The question is not posed to the United States as an aggressor nor to the Zionist entity as the entity that is more hostile. The question is posed firstly and lastly to those Arabs who desire to create appropriate circumstances with a view to returning the Arab homeland once again to the sphere of influence and occupation.

Since this is the fact, Syria, out of its leadership of the Arab liberation movement and its constant desire to maintain the safety of the Arab stand, will remain as it has always been, the side that cares most about guaranteeing the Lebanese people's aspirations to live in peace and on their united land. Today's visit to Beirut by Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is considered a round within the framework of Syria's efforts to remove the injustice done to Lebanon's people and land by the Zionists.

Hence, the United States will not be the one who decides about an issue that concerns the Arabs alone, nor will Israel be allowed to impose through its threats what it wants, contrary to the Arabs' will and steadfastness. This is also the case regarding reaction, which is involved in the Zionist-U.S. scheme as long as it allows itself to be on the side that is hostile to the masses and their objectives for liberation and restoration of usurped Arab rights.

AS-SADAT SAID TO CONFIRM HOSTILITY TO ARAB CAUSE

LD051051 Damascus ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Apr 81 p 2

[By Muhammad Khayr al-Jamali]

[Text] In the latest interview he has given to the Egyptian magazine OCTOBER, Anwar as-Sadat said that he personally is not afraid of joining NATO. He justified this by saying: "The danger facing us is the same." Despite the fact that As-Sadat's statement is regarded as tantamount to paving the way for Egypt to become a Western ally within the framework of NATO, it constitutes a very serious step in supporting American policy and implementing its strategy in the Middle East, particularly the Arab area.

By declaring that he is not afraid of joining an imperialist alliance President as-Sadat is providing a new proof of his adherence to a policy that is hostile to the Arab struggle. This has been a constant NATO policy as confirmed by the American, European and Zionist pressures exerted since the fifties. Sufficient proof of this is the pressure which was brought to bear on the Arab homeland for the establishment of the Baghdad Pact in the past and the METO [as published] pact at present as a substitute for CENTO.

When President as-Sadat announces that the danger facing him and his masters is the same he is in fact repeating a tune that has been reiterated by Brzezinski earlier, by the American State Department general during his recent Middle East tour and also by the parrot, Britain's Mistress Thatcher, when she alleged that the principal danger in the Middle East is the Soviet danger. The purpose of her statement is to gain a new foothold for Britain in the area.

The important thing which the Egyptian president has exposed by his intention to join NATO is that the American-Zionist plan to liquidate the Arab-Zionist struggle on the grounds that it is a marginal or secondary conflict has begun. The serious step which the ruler of Egypt intends to take by joining the alliance hostile to the Arab nation marks the beginning of this plan. However, what must be borne in mind is that the people do not forget and it would be very difficult to convince the Egyptian masses, who have suffered a great deal from colonialism and its domination, that the wolf can simply turn into a peaceable lamb and that the enemies of the past and the recent past can become allies now and in the future.

BEGIN INTERVIEWED ON MISSILES ISSUE, U.S. MOVES

MA'ARIV Interview

TA060910 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 May 81 pp 1, 3

[First of two-part interview by Yosef Yarif of Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 4 May: "We Took Into Account That in Reacting to the Downing of the Helicopters, the Syrians Might Introduce Antiaircraft Missiles Into Lebanese Territory"; place not given; part two scheduled for publication on 8 May]

[Text] Question: While the U.S. diplomatic efforts to have the missiles removed from the Lebanon hills is continuing, not only have the Syrians failed to show any sign of readiness for an agreement but they have even strengthened their missile deployment inside Lebanon. How, then, is it possible to reach an agreement through diplomatic means?

Answer: The Americans have been and are continuing to make a very serious diplomatic effort and they want to exhaust it fully. These efforts should be honored and respected. The message I received from President Reagan is a note of friendship and expresses the desire to cooperate with Israel, assuming that the United States and Israel are allies and share a deep interest. The personal message to me includes several sentences that contain a political message that is very important and most favorable as far as Israel is concerned.

The problem for us is difficult and complex, but I would like to emphasize without any hesitation that this is the most friendly U.S. administration Israel has ever had, except for 2 days: A) the day Truman recognized the State of Israel and B) the day the decision was made to conduct an "airlift." Except for that, there has not been such a friendly administration.

Question: Do we intend to continue with the "restrained" policy?

Answer: Reagan's appeal is for a little more time to exhaust the diplomatic effort.

Question: Is the pause for the political moves limited to a reasonable period of time?

Answer: It is difficult to say what is a reasonable period of time. Our dilemma is: What if the Syrians introduce more missiles; then the attempt to knock them out might hurt our boys. This is what we want to avoid. This is our prime concern.

Question: Does this mean that time is against Israel?

Answer: It means time may act against Israel!

Question: Does this mean that the government has to take this factor into account, despite the U.S. pleas?

Answer: Undoubtedly.

Question: Would it be possible to assume that if it succeeds in its political moves, the United States will be able to neutralize the Soviet Union?

Answer: Let us not go too far. In my opinion, the conflict--which is very grave--will not reach a state where the Soviet Union will intervene and the United States will have to send the 6th Fleet to the Middle East. The problem will be solved one way or another. A solution must be found for the problem. I think we are taken very seriously in the United States and the United States comprehends our determination to solve the problem.

Question: Did you write As-Sadat about the latest developments?

Answer: I intend to. This was the interior minister's suggestion, and I accepted it.

Question: Will you agree to UN supervision in Lebanon as a way out of the situation currently created in the Lebanon hills?

Answer: I have no authority either to agree or disagree to UN supervision. We are Israel, not Lebanon.

Question: On second thought, did you not think that Israel may have taken too much upon itself when it undertook responsibility for the Christians in Lebanon?

Answer: No, on the contrary, I can talk about this with pride. I would like to give you some examples. When Herzl issued the World Zionist Organization's newspaper he called it "THE WORLD," not "Zion" or even "Zionism" but THE WORLD. Why? Herzl wrote that when a Jewish state is established, it would help the blacks liberate themselves. What have we to do with the blacks in Africa? But this is where our pride lies. Zionism is a humane idealism.

According to our tradition, anyone who stands on the opposite side is actually himself participating in the shameful deed. We as Jews cannot stand aside when there is danger for the existence of another people. I wanted to tell you that I have first-hand information that last week the Christians were on the verge of giving up. The entire civilian population, both in Zahlah and in Beirut, could not hang on. Our action changed the entire situation. Their morale reached sky high. Now they know they will not be foresaken. Only we have the right to talk about this proudly.

Question: Did you, Mr Prime Minister, take into account the possibility of the introduction of missiles when you told the chief of staff to intercept the helicopters?

Answer: We took everything into account, in line with the principle of "First think, then act." Believe me, we took everything into account. We acted with restraint and caution. There is one such commonly used word: tactics. I do not use it. I have only one Hebrew word for it: wisdom and thinking. We acted wisely.

Question: Do you have a red line in this situation?

Answer: During Mr Rabin's government there was a red line. But as I said at the time, it was not firm. It changed all the time. I do not use concepts such as red lines. There is no red line. The problem is to guarantee the existence of the Christian minority in Lebanon, both in the south and in the north.

I read the message the late Yig'al Alon sent Simha Dinitz, or if I may say, Israel's "former ambassador" to the United States. It was intended for Dr Kissinger. Statements were made on the red line, such as, we should not allow for Syrian ground forces to enter Lebanon. Nevertheless, they did. That government did not do anything. The red line moved southward. The message also said that under no circumstances will we tolerate the presence of surface-to-air missiles. Yet the moment came [when they were introduced]. At the time I welcomed the message, but what remains of it? After a conversation with me, Mr Peres said that if the missiles cannot be removed through diplomatic measures, then military measures should be taken.

Question: In this respect, is there unanimity between yourself and Mr Peres?

Answer: Consensus, national agreement.

Question: Is there a possibility of using the Soviets to have the missiles removed.

Answer: I do not think so. I think there is no basis for such thought.

Question: This sounds pretty pessimistic.

Answer: Who says? Why should we be pessimistic? We have a stand on the problem of the missiles. It must find a solution. If you do not find a solution one way, a solution will be found in another, but it will be solved.

Question: Was this made clear to the Syrians?

Answer: I suppose so but I could not say.

Question: How, then, can you explain the introduction of the additional missiles?

Answer: It appears that no more missiles have been introduced. Today we received the exact number: those same three batteries. There are additional missiles but they have not yet crossed the Syrian-Lebanese border. They are exactly on the border. If they cross it and are inside Lebanon, of course we will have to think what to do.

Question: On another issue: in April 1982 we will have to evacuate the remaining part of the Sinai. If no understanding is reached on the autonomy and the multinational force, will we, in your estimation, withdraw from all of the Sinai?

Answer: The Sinai issue has nothing to do with autonomy. We claimed all the time that they are not linked. If there is no autonomy agreement, then the military government will remain. Everyone should know this.

As for the Sinai, we told the Americans clearly, and I know that they informed the Egyptians about this: If the multinational force the U.S. President had undertaken to establish in the joint letter to President as-Sadat and myself is not set up, we will not move from the Ra's Muhammad-Al-'Arish line. I hope the multinational force will be a real force, a serious one, accepted by all three elements. Then we will fulfill the peace treaty. We honor agreements, but if the multinational force is not established by March 1982 at the latest, we will, this time next year, still be on the Ra's Muhammad-Al-'Arish line. I repeat: Not only does the United States know this but Egypt, too, knows this.

Question: You came out strongly and sharply against Bonn and Paris. I assume this was not a slip of the tongue.

Answer: Each sentence was well calculated. The Germans will give arms to Saudi Arabia; the Germans! Or the French will give arms to Saudi Arabia! Or to any other Arab state! This is greed. I repeat, nothing else matters to them.

Question: Among those who identify with the content of your remarks, there are those who said it was undiplomatic of you to talk the way you did.

Answer: Well, then sometimes there are moments when diplomacy is a sin, whereas direct, clear statements are a blessing. When Mr Schmidt returned from Saudi Arabia and said: "We have a commitment toward the Arabs who fled," he talked out of ignorance. Then he said they also had a commitment toward Holland, Belgium and so on, and did not mention the Jews, and the Jewish people were included within the "and so on." This is one of the most disgraceful things that have happened in recent times. One should have replied to this with all the determination and in the bluntest terms, as I did.

Question: Have you already received reactions from Germany?

Answer: A lot of commotion arose there. So what? Let it.

Reply to Reagan

TA051933 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 5 May 81

[Interview of Prime Minister Menahem Begin by correspondent Avi Gott in front of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem on the formulation of the reply to President Reagan's message--videotaped]

[Text] [Begin] President Reagan sent me a letter 2 days ago. Yesterday the U.S. ambassador brought it to me. The letter is friendly, full of amity toward the State of Israel and understanding not only for its predicament but also for its ways. We had to discuss the content of that letter and this morning I called a special session of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs--in the course of this week, this is already the second or third meeting; we have problems. We unanimously decided on the content of the reply. I worded it and, as I said earlier, the letter is already on its way [to Washington].

[Question] At the session, did you also discuss positions toward the visit of Philip Habib to the area?

[Answer] Information was given that he would be coming, of course.

[Question] When is he due to arrive?

[Answer] Either in 2 days or on Friday.

U.S. Efforts Praised

TA060632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] In a special interview to mark Independence Day, Prime Minister Mr Menahem Begin says that the United States is making every attempt to decrease the tension in Lebanon:

[Begin recording] [Begin] The United States of America has been making efforts since we appealed to it, during the days of the terrible shelling of Zahlah and the murder of dozens of people, women and children, both in Beirut and in Zahlah, and we asked it to do something to stop this massacre. Since then and to this day the United States has not stopped making efforts. They have really moved heaven and earth. They are appealing to every country from which any sort of help can be expected.

When I read the list of countries, I found, among the others, Abu Dhabi and I asked the U.S. ambassador: Is that the power to whom you are appealing with a request for aid? He said: It is not a power but they have money. Well, that is a reply suitable to these times, perhaps, as far as Syria is concerned. In brief, the United States has appealed to everyone and finally to the Soviet Union as well. And we must praise these efforts and we must also admire them, but so far all these efforts have been in vain. They have not produced any result. [end recording]

SYRIANS NOT EXPECTED TO WITHDRAW MISSILES

TA060639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Despite the diplomatic activity in the area, the prevalent estimate now in the defense establishment is that the Syrians do not intend to withdraw the missiles they moved into the Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon and it appears they intend to bolster the deployment which threatens the IDF Air Force's freedom to fly in Lebanese airspace and even in northern Israeli airspace. Here is a report by our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal:

On their border with Lebanon, and inside Lebanon, the Syrians now have several batteries of SAM-6's, SAM-2's and SAM-3's and the number of missiles has been estimated at several dozens.

The SAM-6 and SAM-2 missiles are positioned on mobile launchers and the SAM-3 missiles are positioned in dugouts. The combination of these models is intended not only to allow for varied operations but also to provide answers to problems involved in bringing down planes at various altitudes. The SAM-2 missiles are intended for action at medium and high altitudes and SAM-3 missiles are efficient at medium and low altitudes, so that the Syrian deployment, although it is not especially dense, covers a broad spectrum efficiently, for ranges reaching as far as the Galilee panhandle and at all sorts of altitudes.

The SAM-3 missiles which the Syrians have brought forward only over the last few days to their border with Lebanon are equipped with a radar system and a computer for discovery and surveillance. There are four launchers in each battery and each launcher has two or four missiles. In any event, the Syrians feel comfortable with the deployment they have established, so it seems, and they have again used MI-8 helicopters, which are now flying between the (Rayaq) airfield and their new positions in the Sannin hills and they are transporting equipment and supplies to the forces they have succeeded in moving into several positions in the hills.

Let us note here that assault helicopters have not been used against the Christians again but if fighting is resumed the possibility should not be dismissed that the Gazelle helicopters which are also positioned in (Rayaq) will again be used against the Christians' positions in the hills.

COMMENTATOR VIEWS 'MISTAKE' OVER U.S. POSITION

TA051452 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 May 81 p 13

['Uzi Benziman commentary: "What Does 'At This Moment' Mean?"]

[Text] Was there a mistake or a deception in the evaluation of the U.S. attitude toward the involvement of the Israeli Air Force in northern Lebanon.

Responsible people should not be allowed to make light of the contradiction in the Israeli Government's evaluation of the U.S. approach to the involvement of the air force in northern Lebanon and the actual U.S. position. While the Israeli political level based its decision to shoot down the Syrian helicopters in the Sannin heights area on the assumption that the U.S. administration would show understanding toward this move, it ultimately emerged that the State Department and the White House regarded this action with gravity. This discrepancy should be given some thought, not only because mutual understanding and coordination of positions between Israel and the United States is vital--even according to the concepts of the current government--but also because decisions based on erroneous assumptions might bring about immeasurable serious consequences, as evidenced in the Yom Kippur war.

A check shows that when tension rose in Lebanon about 2 weeks ago, Israel and the United States exchanged messages reviewing the situation. Both countries shared the same evaluation about the seriousness of the deterioration as a result of the Syrian attacks and they even agreed on the negative role the Syrian Army played in Lebanon. Nevertheless, the two countries decided to handle the escalation through diplomatic means.

A few days passed and the deterioration in northern Lebanon increased: the Syrians increased their pressure on the Zahlah area, their army began taking positions on the Sannin heights, the Christians in the north and in Beirut collapsed under Al-Asad's war machine and their situation also had an impact on the resistance and morale of Major Haddad's troops in the south.

There was no doubt that the circumstances were changing. While initially the Syrians besieged Zahlah, last week the Syrians altered their intentions: They made an effort to take over strongholds on the Lebanon mountain ridge. Israel was required to reassess its moves. It turned out that the Syrians were ignoring the Israeli warnings and the U.S. appeals and were crossing the unwritten red line (the operation of helicopters and their intention to destroy the strongholds on the mountain). It also emerged that the Israeli interest--to safeguard the resistance of, at least, a part of the Christian minority in Lebanon--had been endangered.

In order to check this dangerous development and to restore the status quo ante it was necessary to send a signal to the Syrians. This goal could be achieved through various means: by comprehensive military operations, by publishing serious warnings and by actually hitting the Syrians in various sectors. The decision to shoot down the Syrian helicopters shows that Jerusalem opted for a restrained signal to Damascus: not to invade northern Lebanon with massive forces, not to activate the air force on a large scale, not to adopt other military measures--but, rather, to disrupt the Syrian intention to take over the Lebanon mountain ridge in a spot where they had begun to do so and by attacking the Syrian warfare system.

However, it turns out that Israel did not make do with the operation of the air force against the Syrian helicopters. It also wanted to provide this action with a comfortable political background. Indeed, the political position announced as the background for the restrained military action gave the impression that the decision in Jerusalem had been based on the assumption that the United States would show understanding toward the Israeli move.

In his radio and television appearances, Mr Begin emphasized that it had been decided to adopt military measures after the attempts to hold political negotiations with the Syrians had been exhausted, whereas other government sources stressed Israel's belief that the United States would agree to the air force's operation.

The mistake made in this evaluation emerged immediately: Official U.S. spokesmen rushed to explain that the United States had not given Israel "a green light" to take military measures in northern Lebanon. Other sources said that Washington had not given Israel reason to believe that it approved of military actions and that it had despaired of the chances to act through political means.

On what, then, did Israel base its assumption that the U.S. administration would not object to the air force's operation against the Syrian helicopters? As days go by, we learn from foreign sources more details about the Israeli-U.S. negotiations regarding the flareup in Lebanon. It turns out that in the first stage of the current flareup--that is, about 2 weeks ago--and within the framework of the Israeli-U.S. dialogue, the U.S. administration asked Israel not to adopt any military measures "at this moment." Israel honored this request. As Israel saw it, when the Syrian Army crossed the red line--that is, when it started using helicopters and attempted to take positions on the Lebanon mountain ridge--the circumstances changed and the U.S. request to refrain from an escalation no longer applied. Therefore, it was decided to put the Israeli Air Force into action. Ultimately, it emerged that the Israeli interpretation caught Washington by surprise because the U.S. administration had not intended to set a time limit on its request.

Israel is a sovereign state and the current government frequently stresses this fact. Therefore, the government was able to react as it pleased to the developments in Lebanon. However, a government with such an independent orientation as the Likud government also feels the need to base its moves on mutual understanding with the United States. And here, so it turns out, Mr Begin and his colleagues were mistaken. Lessons should be learned from this about the reliability of evaluations and facts the Cabinet ministers possess when they are about to make decisions on fateful issues.

The issues involved in the Lebanese question are indeed fateful. The developments in Lebanon confront the government with a difficult decision on one of several dangerous options: how to protect its interest--to maintain the resistance of the Christian minority in Lebanon--without going into a comprehensive war with Syria; how to react to the introduction of a surface-to-air missiles into the Al-Biqa' valley; how to maintain the status quo ante which allowed IDF planes to fly freely in Lebanese skies; how to boost the morale of the Christian enclave soldiers in southern Lebanon; how to cope with the increasing terrorist shellings of the Galilee settlements; how to safeguard Israel's political rearguard, which exclusively involves the U.S. support; how to handle the Lebanese crisis without endangering peace with Egypt; how to achieve national consensus about Israel's interest in being involved in a war in Lebanon.

The next few days will show whether the danger of a military confrontation between Israel and Syria will gradually decrease or whether it will rise to a point from which there is no way back. At least one lesson should be drawn from the experiences of last week: Decisions must be based on authoritative facts rather than, at best, on wishful thinking or, at worst, on deceptions.

BEGIN, GOVERNMENT CRITICIZE SCHMIDT'S REMARKS

Begin Position

TA041108 Jerusalem POST in English 4 May 81 pp 1, 2

[By political reporter Sara Honig]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv--Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday labelled West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt a hypocrite and accused him of greed, of willfully seeking to forget German crimes against the Jewish people and of being interested only in selling weapons at high prices and buying oil cheaply.

"The German debt to the Jewish people can never end--not in this generation and not in any other. That entire nation cheered on the murderers as long as they were victorious.

"But what do we hear? We hear of a commitment to those who strove to complete what the Germans had started in Europe," Begin said.

He expressed the certainty that "Schmidt must have concluded some very lucrative business deals in Saudi Arabia, which affected his memory. But perhaps he has no idea of Jewish history and of the history of this land.

"No Arabs fled the West Bank in 1948 or in 1967, when we triumphed despite Jordanian attacks upon us. Not even the residents of murderous Hebron escaped. Only the residents of one refugee camp in Jericho crossed the nearby River Jordan.

Begin continued: "It is sheer arrogance and impudence to tell members of my generation--the generation of the Holocaust and of Jewish rebirth--that Germany has a debt to the Arabs. Such words have not been heard since the close of World War II, when the world saw what was done to us in the crematoriums."

Begin then, apparently alluding to Schmidt, said he knew full well who was present "in a certain movie theatre with Hitler to view the barbarous execution in 1944 of German officers who failed in a coup attempt. They were hung by piano wires to make their death slow and torturous.

"I am not the only one who knows who was present by invitation during the screening of that film and who applauded it with the rest of the audience."

Begin went on to define a Greek tragedy: "It is the futile contest between mere mortal and fate. Their defeat is pre-ordained and fate is bound to emerge triumphant. Schmidt is telling us that our fate, too, is sealed and that our lot is failure."

"Schmidt knows that Saudi petrodollars support the murderous PLO, so he thinks they should control the Judaean and Samarian mountains to make it possible for them to shell Tel Aviv," Begin continued.

"But then he doesn't care if Israel goes under. He saw this almost happen to our people in Europe not so long ago. He served in the armies that encircled the cities, until the work was finished by the Einsatzgruppen."

The Einsatzgruppen were units whose job was to exterminate the Jews living in towns and villages as they were occupied by the German Army during World War II.

Finally, to the sound of thunderous applause, Begin promised Schmidt that "we will continue to be stubborn about the fact that our one country is rightfully ours, that we will continue building it, that a Palestinian state will never be established in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, that even in the event of peace talks with Syria, we will never leave the Golan Heights."

Official Protest

TA051952 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] The director general of the Foreign Ministry, David Kimche, this evening summoned the German Embassy's charge d'affaires, Dr Franz Sikora. In the meeting, Mr Kimche submitted an official Israeli Government protest over the remarks made by Chancellor Schmidt upon his return from Saudi Arabia. The German diplomat said he would transmit the protest to his supervisors in the Foreign Ministry in Bonn. Here is a report by correspondent Yoram Ronen:

[Begin videotape] [Ronen] The German diplomat, who arrived in Israel a few weeks ago from Poland, found himself this week in one of the most tense situations in Israeli-German relations. In the meeting with the director general of the Foreign Ministry, the sharp Israeli protests over Chancellor Schmidt's statements were transmitted to him in the same spirit as the one recently voiced by the prime minister and the foreign minister. The German charge d'affaires listened but refused to react. After the meeting, the director general of the Foreign Ministry told us the following:

[Kimche] I explained to him that a large part of the statements not only hurt us and were most negative but they were also based on a misunderstanding of the regional setup and were full of misrepresentations.

[Ronen] What do you expect will be the next moves in Israeli-German relations?

[Answer] Well, tomorrow our ambassador will be called to meet the German deputy foreign minister and I assume that this, too, will be a conversation rather similar to the one held here now. I suppose the relations will be somewhat tense for a while but we hope the relations between the two countries will continue just like before Chancellor Schmidt made his remarks.

[Question] Can the relations be rehabilitated?

[Answer] We hope so. [end videotape]

POLL INDICATES 'DRAMATIC' SWING TO LIKUD

TA060920 Jerusalem POST in English 6 May 81 pp 1, 2

[By political correspondent Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv--In a sudden dramtic swing to the Likud, public opinion has in less than a month propelled the governing party to par with a plummeting Labor Alignment. It is now a neck-and-neck race to the Knesset elections in 56 days.

The return of former Likud supporters to the fold after years of being undecided has raised the Likud to 41 seats, with the same for Labor, which is a decline from last month. Little change was shown in the other parties' standing.

This picture emerges from the Jerusalem POST poll for the month of May conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Applied Research Centre among a representative sample of 1,245 adults. The survey was conducted in the last week of April and the first days of May. Data processing was completed yesterday.

The centre's director, Dr Sara Shemer, said that the pro-Likud trend had been apparent since January, narrowing the gap between the Likud and Labor, as can be seen in the following table of Knesset seats:

	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan
Likud	41	35	33	25	20
Labor	41	46	45	52	58

The Likud gain came from the shrinkage of the floating vote. Thus, in the May poll, 23.9 percent of the electorate were uncommitted (12.6 percent undecided; 6.9 percent won't vote; 4.4 percent won't say).

In April, the uncommitted bloc amounted to 31.5 percent (21.3 percent undecided; 6.5 percent won't vote; 3.7 percent won't say).

	May	April	March
Likud	41	35	33
Labor	41	46	45
NRP	9	10	9
Agudat Yisra'el bloc	6	5	5
Moshe Dayan's Telem	4	4	9
Tehiya	3	4	3
Shulamit Aloni's Citizens Rights Movement	2	3	2
Shinuy	1	1	1
Others	13	12	12

According to Shemer, Likud and Labor voters come from different parts of the population. Likud supporters show a preponderance of young voters of lower education and income, oriental Jews, blue-collar workers and religious-minded people. Labor draws on higher socio-economic groups, the older age-groups, Western communities and the traditional and secular-minded. Dayan attracts upper-class oriental Jews, who are secular-minded.

Shemer also reported that analysis of the replies indicates that a large segment of voters do not think the Labor Alignment offers a clear alternative in foreign affairs and defence, and especially in economic policies. Moreover, recent polls indicated a growing hawkish mood throughout the country. For example, three-quarters of the population favours continued settlement of Judaea and Samaria, she said.

Shemer also noted that 58.1 percent of those who voted for the Likud in 1977 would do the same today, 12.2 percent had shifted to Labor, 3.7 percent would choose Dayan, 3.1 percent would go for Tehiya, 12 percent other parties, and 10.9 percent remained undecided.

She said it was significant that in March some 25 percent of former Likud supporters had been undecided for whom to vote. For the Likud this meant 10.9 percent of the voters who gave them 45 seats in 1977, compared to Labor's 33 seats. Likud's undecided bloc amounts to 10.5 percent of those who backed the party last time, while 71 percent have kept faith, 8 percent have shifted to the Likud, 9.7 percent to Dayan and 0.4 percent Shinuy. As to those who voted for the defunct DMC [Democratic Movement for Change] in 1977, this time 34.6 percent will vote Labor, 11.2 percent Likud, 8.4 percent Dayan, 4.7 percent Shinuy, 5.6 percent Citizens Rights Movement, 0.9 percent Tehiya, and a sizeable 26.2 percent remained uncommitted.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI MESSAGES ATTACK RDF, U.S. BASES

LD051732 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 May 81

[Excerpt] The brother leader in his capacity as chairman of the present session of the National Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation has sent messages, the first to the UN secretary general and the other to the chairman of the UN Security Council, about the Rapid Deployment Forces being formed by America and other Western countries and about the spread of American bases in the Arab region, especially in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman.

The leader told the UN secretary general and the Security Council chairman that the Rapid Deployment Force is not directed against the West but is directed against the nonaligned states, and it constitutes a threat to the Third World countries. He pointed out that the presence of American bases in Arab countries, which are thousands of miles away from America, is considered a violation of the UN Charter and indicates a great interference in the affairs of small countries. The leader asked the United Nations and the Security Council to quickly intervene to halt this danger, which constitutes a dangerous precedent threatening peace and security in the world.

The leader sent messages with the same meaning to the heads of the nonaligned states. In them he points out the Egyptian Government and the Sudanese Government granting the United States bases and military facilities in their countries. He stated that these bases and facilities encourage the other countries to follow this path, an action which constitutes the start of the collapse of the Nonaligned Movement and which conflicts with its aims and principles. In his messages the leader of the revolution called for the expulsion of the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes from the Nonaligned Movement.

MAURITANIA

AL-MAJALLAH INTERVIEWS OPPOSITION LEADERS

LD051625 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 2-8 May 81 pp 29-31

[Talhah Jabril interview with Mauritanian opposition leaders Mohamed Abdelrahman Ould Amin and Ismail Ould Maouloud in Rabat--date not specified]

[Text] A Mauritanian political opposition movement was established in May 1980 in Paris under the name Alliance for a Democratic Mauritania [AMD]. Several civilian and military personalities joined the movement, but it did not attract attention until the recent abortive coup in Mauritania. This was after the movement issued a statement in Paris claiming responsibility for the abortive attempt and denied that Morocco had anything to do with the events in Nouakchott. AL-MAJALLAH met in Rabat with two leaders of AMD. These were Mohamed Abdelrahman Ould Amin, who was Mauritanian ambassador to Kuwait until May 1980, and Ismail Ould Maoulouon, who was his country's ambassador in Cairo until April 1979. The text of an interview with the two opposition leaders follows:

[Question] I would like to know your views regarding the recent rumor that France played a role in foiling the recent coup attempt in Mauritania by informing the CMSN in Mauritania of the putschists' plan and timing.

Ould Amin: The attempted coup was able to achieve its objectives and was in control of the situation for several hours. The countermove came late and would not have succeeded had it not been for the Polisario Front's help for the Mauritanian Government. In response to your question, we can neither deny nor confirm what you said.

[Question] In your opinion, why has Mauritania accused the Moroccan Government of being behind the attempt?

Ould Amin: I believe that the present policy of the Mauritanian Government has become identical with that of the Polisario Front, and Polisario sees in Morocco its number one and only enemy. This is one reason. The other is that the accusation against Morocco is aimed at diverting the attention of public opinion both at home and abroad from what is going on in Mauritania.

The Mauritanian regime has failed to give any proof of Morocco's involvement. In fact, the campaign of arrests, which included hundreds of civilian and military Mauritanians, confirms that the affair was internal. Moreover, the nine military personnel arrested following the attempt all belong to the Mauritanian Army. Everybody has witnessed how the present regime did not allow any foreign journalist to enter the country after the coup attempt. There is not a single foreign correspondent of any newspaper or news agency in Mauritania at present, which confirms that the facts of what happened are not known. The government has not yet given any further explanation and was satisfied with issuing an official communique. According to this communique the putschists arrived in Dakar on board a Moroccan plane, but it became evident later that no Moroccan plane arrived in Dakar on that date.

Also according to the communique, the putschists were trained by a Moroccan officer--but it became evident to us later that the Moroccan officer referred to died 3 months before the coup attempt. The contradictory statements of the regime became evident when it admitted that the vehicles used in the coup belonged to the Mauritanian Army.

[Question] Why, according to what you say, did the attempted coup fail?

Ould Maouldud: We have corroborated information that Polisario forces are concentrated in northern Mauritania from Zouirat to E-N-Ouadhibou. There is also a Polisario division [firqah] stationed in the Nouakchott suburbs. It was the intervention of this division that foiled the operation. The accusation against Morocco was made in order to justify the overt Polisario support for the Mauritanian regime.

[Question] AMD declared its responsibility for the coup attempt. What was the objective of the attempt?

Ould Maouldud: The objective of the operation was to change the military regime. We realize that President Haydala and Col Moulay Boukhreis originate from the Sahara. They are exploiting the situation in Mauritania in order to achieve the Polisario objective of establishing a state in the Western Sahara. The purpose of our operation was to foil the plan that aims at enslaving Mauritania and to establish a civilian democratic regime that will pursue a policy serving the Mauritanian people and their Islamic creed, as well as their Arab affiliation.

[Question] Does the AMD intend to carry out another attempt?

Ould Maouldud: We will never give up armed or political struggle as long as this regime exists. Our country's resources are limited, and for 2 years it has known no stability. This was what prompted us to carry out a military action--to put an end to the chaos. What is more serious is that the country has recently suffered from tribal problems, and it is difficult for military rule to lead the country into a better situation. In any case, we are satisfied with the fact that there are nationalist elements in the army opposed to the present regime, and that the same thing applies to the majority of the people. In this regard the regime tried to organize popular marches to support it, but it failed twice and the third time only a few hundred turned out.

[Question] How do you evaluate the successive changes in the CMSN, and how true is it that Prime Minister Bneijara and his followers are Iraq's men?

Ould Amin: The CMSN is the ruling body in theory but the real power is in the hands of the Haydala-Boukhreis-Bneijara alliance. This is confirmed by the fact that the committee has not met since 16 March because of internal disputes.

With regard to the second part of the question, we highly appreciate the role of Iraq and its aid and assistance to our country. But we believe that Bneijara is the Polisario's man more than anything else. During the term of Moustafa Ould Salek he was charged with liaising with Polisario.

[Question] As far as the AMD is concerned, what are your plans for the future of the country, and how would you visualize Mauritania's relations with neighboring countries if you come to power?

Ould Maouldud: In fact, the alliance embraces several political currents united by the desire to work to bring down the present regime and replace it with a democratic one. The alliance is interested in Mauritania first and foremost, but we believe that our relations with the neighboring countries should be good. We know which are the "states" that exist in the region.

[Question] What are the alliance's relations with former President Mokhtar Ould Daddah?

Ould Amin: We believe that Ould Daddah was an honest citizen who tried to serve Mauritania as best he could. History has proved that he is a man of integrity. We in the alliance have no objection to cooperating with him if he agrees with the alliance's objectives. We refuse to cooperate only with those who have committed crimes against the Mauritanian people.

[Question] Why is Paris chosen as the alliance's headquarters? Is this a sign of good relations between you and France?

Ould Maouldud: Our presence in Paris has been dictated by the democratic and press freedoms in France. We are not the only opposition movement that is active from Paris.

[Question] The Mauritanian Government accuses you of being pro-Morocco. What do you say to this accusation?

Ould Amin: We as an opposition movement maintain contact with every international quarter or organization, be it Arab or African, in order to convince it of and make it aware of what is going on in Mauritania. If there is any side willing to listen to our views we are ready to contact it. Our objective is always to contact everybody in order to explain the facts of the situation in Mauritania, but we basically concentrate on the homefront.

[Question] Despite the fact that the present Mauritanian regime has good relations with Libya, it announced recently that it has uncovered an attempted coup under the leadership of Baba Maskah aimed at establishing a regime more aligned with Libya. How do you explain this?

Ould Maouldud: The present regime is allied with Libya, but Libya wants a regime closer to it. Although we are one single opposition movement, our views might differ on certain issues. Therefore I believe that the coup attempt that was announced as having been organized by Libya is fabricated and groundless. At the time in question there was great pressure on the government and therefore it fabricated this coup attempt in order to silence the discontent. We have observed that supporters of Baba Maskah were last week appointed to key positions in the administration. Even when President Haydala took a vacation he spent it in the town of Akjoujt with Baba Maskah, who was pardoned. After the alleged coup Baba Maskah published an article in Paris praising Haydala and his present regime. Moreover, Libya itself did not refer to the attempted coup. In fact, when [Libyan Foreign Minister] at-Turayki visited Nouakchott recently he praised the Mauritanian Government and offered financial aid to the Mauritanian fishing company. The Libyan radio and news agency made no reference at all to the question of the expulsion of Libyan diplomats. I do not think that Libya can find a regime more aligned with it than the present one, and the proof is in the recent announcement in Tripoli of the proposed unity plan between Libya, Mauritania and Polisario.

[Question] What is the truth of recent reports that Algeria has military forces in Nouakchott?

Ould Maouldud: Algeria says that it has only "experts" there. We know what the term "experts" means in the political vocabulary. Our information confirms that Algerian forces are now guarding Mauritania's airport. The interrogation of the civilians and military arrested following the recent coup attempt is supervised by Algerian officers.

[Question] The Mauritanian Government's communique said that the putschists came from Senegal, but it is observed that Mauritania's relations with Senegal have not deteriorated as much as Mauritanian-Moroccan relations have. How do you explain this?

Ould Maouldud: The present regime is trying to show good will toward Senegal because it cannot operate on two fronts simultaneously. But we know that Nouakchott provides asylum for the Senagalese opposition. For example, Ahmed Miyas, who was residing in Libya, is now in Mauritania and carries a Mauritanian passport. What the government said about the putschists' having come from Senegal was sheer lies whose aim was to drive a wedge between Senegal and Morocco. This was evident in Haydala's statement in which he said that the coup was hatched by Morocco and launched from Senegal without the knowledge of the government there.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN THREATS, RELATIONS

JN051614 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] KHARTOUM, 5 May (SUNA)--Speaking in an interview with SUNA today, President Numayri announced that OAU President Siaka Stevens had briefed him on a Libyan request calling for a meeting of the 12-man committee in Ndjamena. President Numayri described this Libyan request as a maneuver which the Libyans are trying to pass before the convocation of the coming African summit conference. President Numayri added that the Libyans realize that the current situation in Ndjamena does not allow the convocation of any such meeting. He described the Libyans as lacking the ability to move and that all they are interested in at the moment is to prevent the criticism they are going to face during the deliberations of the coming African summit conference.

Speaking about his recent contacts with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, Djibouti President Hassan Gouled and Ugandan President Milton Obote, President Numayri said that they were successful and that Somali President Siad Barre had expressed readiness to negotiate with the Ethiopians. President Numayri praised this move by President Siad Barre and stressed that the East African presidents' moves are important for this region and will result in great benefits.

President Numayri also expressed Sudan's readiness to train any number of Ugandans in Sudan because, the president explained, Uganda needs a very special sort of aid to restore stability in that country. The president said that Sudan is currently helping Uganda in training Ugandan officers, as part of training offered to them by other countries such as Kenya, Tanzania and England.

On the local scene, the president stressed that the policy of purging posts of saboteurs and obstructionists would continue so we can push the wheel of production further forward. The president clarified that the main objective of Sudan's enemies is to strike at development in Sudan. Those enemies have realized that the development of Sudan means that Sudan will become a strong and modern state capable of facing the greediness of several big powers. The president emphasized that we know these big powers very well and we realize that they are exploiting small states in the area in order to undermine development in our country.

Further Report

JN052029 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 5 May (SUNA)--President Numayri praised Sudanese-Saudi relations and stressed that we have strong and numerous cultural and commerical bonds with Saudi Arabia. President Numayri emphasized that Saudi Arabia is considered to be our Islamic center, containing the qiblah [Mecca] and Medina. President Numayri added that we here in Sudan are interested in Saudi Arabia's security exactly as Saudi Arabia is interested in our own security. The president stressed in this regard that our relations with Saudi Arabia are much more expressive and better than a defense pact. He said that our relations with Saudi Arabia are cordial, in addition to the fact that all the Arab states join one defense pact within the framework of the Arab League.

President Numayri announced that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had always extended aid to Sudan to finance weapons purchases from the United States. The president explained that Saudi Arabia had extended aid to Sudan to purchase [word indistinct] vehicles and spare parts. His excellency the president said that Sudan expects to receive further aid from Saudi Arabia to purchase more [word indistinct] vehicles and more spare parts.

President Numayri underlined that, within this frameowrk of mutual understanding between the two countries, and because they believe in the importance of keeping this area away from any interference by the big powers, the Saudis are supporting us and extending to us the necessary aid.

President Numayri explained that Sudan has, for the first time, asked to purchase air defense equipment from France, and that France has also, for the first time acquiesced in giving a developing state weapons by hire purchase; however, the president added, Sudan has not received any of this equipment.

President Numayri said that Sudan is now dealing only with friendly states which are supplying us with small defensive weapons, spare parts and maintainance equipment. The president stresced that the Soviets had stopped supplying us with spare parts since the date of the communist plot against Sudan, in which they were involved to a large extent. Yugoslavia has been one of the states that has maintained the Soviet-made MiG's and helicopters.

As for cooperation with Britain and the United States, President Numayri explained that is long-standing. He added that there have been some British and U.S. weapons in the Sudanese army for a long time. President Numayri said that this cooperation had not ceased and is still continuing although the training for these weapons is expensive. He added that the United States had recently increased its military aid to Sudan so it could defend itself. The president explained that Sudan needs some $100-billion worth of planes, radar and antiaircraft guns to be able to defend itself properly, stressing that no state in the entire world can defend itself 100 percent.

President Numayri said that the United States had offered some $100 million in military aid to Sudan. The president also emphasized the Arab Republic of Egypt had long been cooperating with Sudan in fields of training and that Sudan can always benefit from any military equipment Egypt is capable of producing.

ETHIOPIA

GUERRILLAS BLOCK MAJOR GOVERNMENT OFFENSIVE

NC041736 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 4 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 4 May (AFP)--Guerrillas fighting for independence in Ethiopia's Tigray Province have blocked a major government offensive and now control the centre and the west of the province, a communique from the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said here today.

The guerrillas forced government troops "to retreat to the big towns", after the second phase of the offensive, the sixth against the TPLF, began in late February, the communique added.

They killed some 420 Ethiopian troops, including 16 officers and four political cadres, in a (?six)-hour battle, the communique said. It gave no date for the battle.

The communique spoke of mammoth demonstrations by more than 30,000 Tigreans between April 24 and 27 in support of the TPLF and against the sixth offensive. These demonstrations took place in [words indistinct] central and eastern Tigray, it added.

The communique said that Ethiopian Government troops were confined to big towns while guerrillas controlled the [word indistinct] countryside. "Those (Ethiopian troops) who try to move to the countryside are ambushed by TPLF forces in the area," it added.

It said that on April 25, Tigray guerrillas ambushed and routed government troops, killing or wounding more than 70 of them and capturing three. The attack took place on (?Killilie) village near the border between Tigray and Eritrea Provinces, it added.

On April 30, the guerrillas, according to the communique, captured five more Ethiopian soldiers near the town of Hagere Selam, about 35 kms (22 miles) west of the Tigray provincial capital of Makelle. The soldiers had left their garrison to "forcedly conscript the people for militia", it added.

The communique said that the Ethiopian Government launched the first phase of its sixth military offensive against TPLF in central and western Tigray between August and November last year. Some 43,000 Ethiopian troops, supported by tanks, heavy artillery, MiG 21 fighters, helicopters and "a number of Soviet experts," took part in the offensive, which was intended to secure control of central Tigray, it added.

The second phase, involving 15,000 soldiers from Ethiopia's 38th brigade along with tanks, heavy artillery, bombers, fighters, helicopters and 70 Soviet experts, was aimed at gaining control of western Tigray, it said.

KENYA

PRESIDENT MOI HOLDS TALKS WITH SAUDI PRINCE

LD041534 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 4 May 81 EA

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi this morning held private talks with the visiting Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia at State House, Nairobi. During their talks, President Moi said that Kenya and Saudi Arabia had long friendly ties which the two countries must strive to strengthen further. On behalf of the people of Kenya, President Moi welcomed the visiting prince, who is the brother of King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, and wished him an enjoyable stay in Kenya. Their talks touched on a number of bilateral issues between Saudi Arabia and Kenya.

Prince Talal, who is a special envoy to the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, arrived in Nairobi yesterday and will be visiting a number of UNICEF-related projects in Nairobi. He was accompanied to the State House by Saudi Arabia's charge d'affairs, Mr Tahir 'Ubayo. Also present at the talks were Kenya's minister of state, Mr Nicolas Biwott, and Foreign Minister Dr Robert Ouha.

UGANDA

OBOTE RAISES FUEL PRICES, WARNS OF BITTER MEASURES

LD012112 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0858 GMT 1 May 81 EA

[May Day address by President Milton Obote delivered at the Kampala Conference Center--live]

[Excerpts] [Passage indistinct] Fellow citizens, Tanzania has never held, has never harbored any intention of being a colonial power in Uganda. The TPDF [Tanzania People's Defense Forces] have not been an army of occupation in Uganda. None of the four parties which contested our recent elections made any complaint that during these elections the Tanzanian army favored any one party or interfered in the processes of the elections. The TPDF have not appointed anywhere in Uganda any chief, district commissioner, head of department, permanent secretary or minister.

Fellow citizens, the sacrifices of the people of Tanzania and the TPDF in the liberation of Uganda shall always remain a glowing testimony of humanity in the annals of the history of this country. [applause] The Tanzanians, fellow citizens, are humans just like ourselves. But what they did for us, the people of Uganda, is next only to what the Christians read in the gospel according to St Luke: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son so that whosoever cleaveth to him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life. [applause]

I repeat. Tanzanians are human beings. They gave their lives for this nation so that we may be free. We are now free, and it is up to us to remain free, to safeguard that freedom. Our weaknesses and our prosperity as a nation towards policies and acts of self-destruction should not be blamed on Tanzanians. Since my return to this country 11 months ago, I have repeatedly stated the one price I know the Tanzanians want us to pay for their sacrifices towards our liberty. I repeat the same today. The Tanzanians seek nothing except that the people of Uganda should unite and live in peace. [applause] My party and the government are prepared to pay that price. I call upon all Ugandans to join us in this noble cause.

I take the opportunity to extend once more to the president, the CCM [Chama Cha Madinduzi], the government, the people of Tanzania and the TPDF and the [words indistinct] our warmest and most heartfelt appreciation for all that they have done for the people of Uganda. [applause]

As commander in chief of the Ugandan Armed Forces, I (?announce) to the people of Uganda that the TPDF personnel, officers and men will, after completing their mission, be returning to Tanzania shortly. I have every confidence that the Uganda National Liberation Army, UNLA, have learned from the TPDF the important message of service to the nation as a whole and that every member of the UNLA shall, in the defense of Uganda, use the fullest and highest respect to human life and property of their fellow citizens.

Today, being the workers day, is when we reaffirm our faith in self-reliance (?for) our future prosperity or for personal security. From what I have said, I do not wish to (?say more) on the matter of security. But on the economic recovery of this country, I hide nothing from you and I say we have serious problems to overcome. It will not be easy to find answers to all the problems now facing the country. A beginning, however, must be made, and be made now. The government is now considering certain basic courses of action to be implemented as one package. I hope to be able to announce that package when I present the budget. These matters include the value of the shilling, the question of price control, improvement in government revenue collection and incentives to producers as well, such as you workers and farmers. Government is very much concerned about prices and wages being paid to producers as well. The government is equally concerned about the low levels of agricultural and industrial production. The prices and wages being paid to producers of export crops and to wage earners are too low compared to [word indistinct] prices of petty commodities.

Government recognizes that you workers [words indistinct] wage increments. But the law of Uganda says that you and your employers do consult first before new levels of statutory minimum wage can be fixed by government. You are aware that the government has to appoint a minimum wage advisory board to consult with workers and employers. I announce that the board will soon be appointed and government is eager that the board, when appointed, should finish its work as quickly as possible to enable the government to take up [words indistinct] of minimum wages with effect from 1 July this year. [applause]

As regards producers of export crops, prices due to them for their produce have always been fixed by government alone. In fulfillment of election promises, I wish today to announce new prices for Arabica and Robusta coffee and for cotton. The prices of the other export crops such as tea and tobacco and all the others are also being reviewed. And when the reviews are completed, the new prices will also be announced. But as--but with immediate effect the price to the farmer of (?unharmed) Arabica coffee is raised from 13.10 to 37.40 per kg. [applause] The price to the farmer of (?unharmed) Robusta coffee is raised from 7 shillings to 20 shillings per kg. The price of seed cotton paid to farmers is raised from 6 shillings to 15 shillings per kg. Prices to (?processers) of coffee and ginners of seed cotton are also being adjusted upward.

Fellow citizens, today the dramatic increases in producer prices is a further demonstration of government commitment to [words indistinct] economic development. [Words indistinct] increased production and effectively raise the standards of living in the country. I sincerely hope that the new prices will provide sufficient incentive to you the farmers to produce more.

Now the matter of petroleum products has been exercising the minds of the government. Today petroleum products take a very large percentage of our foreign exchange earnings. I am aware of the recent difficulties we have gone through in maintaining a continuous supply of these products. Nevertheless, government feels that these products have been subsidized for years and should now make a contribution in the recovery of the economy.

(?With immediate effect), therefore, the prices of fuel in Kampala are raised as follows: petrol, premium grade, 27 shillings only a liter [laughter]; petrol, regular grade, 25 shillings a liter; diesel, 15 shillings a liter; kerosene, 7 shillings a liter; fuel oil, prices to be doubled; lubricants, prices to be doubled. Up-country prices will be adjusted accordingly.

Fellow citizens, the challenges facing us in the reconstruction of our economy and social services are daunting. The measures I have just announced are preliminary measures. More will have to be done if we are to be serious in tackling the problems facing our economy. I warn you, some of the measures that will be coming will be bitter. Uganda is economically sick. But Ugandans are used to (?that). [Words indistinct] but when one is suffering from a serious illness that requires major surgery, one must accept that surgery; the alternative is difficult to state. The Ugandan economy needs major surgery. If we all work together, we can go through it and come out successfully. [Words indistinct] in all our endeavors. Today I want to charge them with one responsibility. More will come later. I want them within the next few weeks to advise government on what they think should be the best measures of organizing import and export trade and internal trade. The policy of the government is to restore all normal commercial activities. As for that, the ministries concerned will receive these reports from the Chamber of Commerce and industry without delay.

On the international scene, the government will support the ILO and other [words indistinct] agencies. We strongly uphold Uganda's membership of the OAU labor commission. We shall [words indistinct] Uganda's trade unions to affiliate to friendly international workers organizations. [applause] Government will ensure the participation of workers in the decision-making processes in their places of work. We will provide conditions under which individual workers, through their unions, acquire shares in industries. [applause] And, if I may add, there is no obstacle to your representatives sitting on boards of directors.

Now fellow citizens, there is only one other matter on which I want to pronounce before I conclude. This is the matter of Ugandans who, for various reasons, live outside the country but would want to return home. We now have a political government. The people of Uganda, by registering and going to the polls in their millions, have [words indistinct] chosen discussion as the mode of conducting our national affairs. It is that spirit [words indistinct] and to all Ugandans who are abroad because of political reasons or differences, the government position is to allow every Ugandan to exercise his fundamental rights as provided in the constitution. To those Ugandans who went abroad because of insecurity in their home areas, I say come home. The policy of the government is to give security to all and no one shall be harassed, persecuted because of his tribe, religion or political beliefs.

To conclude, fellow citizens, workers, farmers, I sympathize and mourn with you the loss of your dear colleagues during the past 10 years. Let the past be forgiven. Let us start a new era. Let us be together. The present is difficult but with hard work and confidence in ourselves and unity, we shall overcome the evils of the day and once more, the pearl of Africa shall rise and shine again. For God and my country. [applause]

CAMEROON

PRESIDENT AHIDJO TO MEET CHAD'S GOUKOUNI 7 MAY

AB052205 Paris AFP in French 1713 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Yaounde, 5 May (AFP)--It was learned Tuesday from informed sources in Yaounde that the Cameroonian head of state, Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo, will meet with Mr Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad [GUNT] on Thursday in Ngaoundere (north Cameroon).

The meeting, which has been prepared for several days by envoys of the two countries, will take place at the request of Mr Goukouni Oueddei. It is indicated that Mr Goukouni would in fact like to end his isolation from several of his neighbors, caused by the Libyan military intervention in Chad.

Observers point out that during the meeting, President Ahidjo will certainly remind his counterpart of Cameroon's neutrality in the Chadian conflict--a position that Cameroon does not intend to change. Observers also indicate that Yaounde favors the revival of the Chadian state under the auspices of the United Nations.

Observers believe that the discussions will also deal with the prospects of bilateral relations as well as the problem of some 80,000 Chadian refugees living in Kousseri, Cameroon, and whose number has never decreased since the Libyan intervention in Chad and the restoration of peace in Ndjamena.

It appears that the Ngaoundere summit will be held at a moment when the Libyan troops have pulled out of the airport of Ndjamena toward the base of Dougia, 60 km away from the Chadian capital. It will also happen when the United Nations has resumed its emergency and development programs inside Chad.

VIOLATION OF AIRSPACE BY CHAD, LIBYA PROTESTED

AB052201 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Cameroon has protested to the Chadian and Libyan Governments to take necessary measures against the repeated violations of its airspace by planes coming from Ndjamena, Chad. The Yaounde government has sent a letter of protest to the two countries following the crash in the northern town of Kousseri by a MiG-23 plane, belonging to the Libyan Armed Forces 6 days ago.

Last week's incident followed a similar violation of Cameroon's airspace by an unidentified aircraft from Ndjamena last October. The recent incident prompted the government from summoning the Libyan and Chadian charges d'affairs for questioning at the Foreign Ministry. [sentence as heard] Yaounde stressed that repeated violation of its airspace could jeopardize the peaceful relations between Cameroon on one hand and Chad and Libya on the other.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

MINISTER EXPLAINS GOVERNMENT POSTURE ON MEDIA

AB051350 Paris AFP in French 1052 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Bangui, 5 May (AFP)--The Central African minister of information and culture, Mr Alphonse Blague, on Tuesday before more than 200 journalists and information officials defined the major orientations that he hopes to give to the Central African media. Mr Blague sees the fundamental objective of information as an effective element in the general development of Central Africa.

The minister explained that information should favor the development of our national cultures and the transformation of our positive cultural values. It should lead to the creation of a national social ethic, which President David Dacko in other circumstances called a Negro-Central African humanism.

Mr Blague wanted to reassure a group that has been scalded by 14 years of dictatorship during which denunciation, slander and unscrupulous ambition prevailed. The reporter should work in confidence and inspire confidence, he stated. The climate of suspicion should no longer exist. Mr Blague also stressed that reporters are not griots [story-tellers], but officers devoted to the cause of the nation and the state. The complaints made against them by political parties are therefore not founded.

On the competence of journalists, the minister stated that it is possible to achieve competence with a continuous training program, especially seminars.

CONGO

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING BONGO'S VISIT

AB051312 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 4 May 81

[Communique issued at the end of Gabonese President Omar Bongo's visit to the Republic of Congo on 4 May]

[Text] Within the framework of the good-neighbor relations so happily existing between the Republic of Gabon and the Republic of Congo, and in the spirit of the policy of permanent consultation which the two heads of state foster, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Gabonese Republic, secretary general and founder of the Gabonese Democratic Party [PDG]; Mrs Josephine Bongo and their entourage today paid a working visit to Pointe Noire at the invitation of his Congolese counterpart, His Excellency Denis Sassou-N'Guesso, president of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party [PCT], president of the republic, head of state and president of the Council of Ministers.

After a warm welcome accorded to the Gabonese presidential couple and their entourage by the president and Mrs Antoinette Sassou-N'Guesso and the authorities and militants of the city of Pointe Noire, the two heads of state and their entourage went to the presidential residence where they had an extensive exchange of views on matters of bilateral cooperation concerning the two countries. They also reviewed matters related to the central African subregion, especially those connected with the development of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC].

On international matters, the two heads of state reaffirmed their commitment to the charter and principles of the UN and the OAU and expressed their concern over the development of the Namibian problem. To this effect, they called on international conscience to see to it that that country attains independence.

During their stay in Pointe Noire, the president of the Gabonese Republic and his entourage visited the industrial forestation unit of oil drilling at Lingo. The president of the Gabonese Republic and Mrs Josephine Bongo very sincerely thanked the president of the People's Republic of Congo and Mrs Antoinette Sassou-N'Guesso, the Congolese authorities and the people of Pointe Noire, for the very fraternal welcome accorded them in the economic capital of the People's Republic of Congo.

BENIN

KEREKOU CONDEMNS 'RUMORMONGERS' IN MAY DAY SPEECH

AB041253 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 1 May 81

[Excerpts] Today is 1 May 1981 and the Beninese people celebrated Labor Day. The theme of the celebration was mobilization for a sound management of all our production units. In Cotonou, two events marked this morning's international festival. First, the laying of a wreath at the martyr's monument by the head of state, then the important mass rally held at the sports hall, also presided over by our great comrade in struggle, President Kerekou.

In his introductory speech, the secretary general of the Federation of Workers Unions of Benin [UNSTB] welcomed our great Comrade Mathieu Kerekou. President Kerekou later took over in his capacity as minister of defense to make an address in which he made the following analysis:

[Begin recording] [Kerekou] Fellow militants of the Beninese revolution, for some weeks now, we have noticed a clear tendency toward a new wave of rumormongering. These rumors, which are more or less whimsical, are aimed at sowing [words indistinct] and confusion in the people of our towns and villages, with the mere and shameless objective of [word indistinct] violating the conscience of fellow militants of the popular and democratic Beninese revolution. These rumors reflect the state of mind of their helpless and mad-specialist originators, who are in the pay of the money powers, and are nothing but speculations and big guesses on important matters which, before any consequent decision--and they know this very well--require a deep and responsible analysis by the Central Committee of our vanguard party, the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin [PRPB] following the advice of the revolutionary National Assembly, supreme organ of power in our country, the People's Republic of Benin or of its permanent committee. So some false rumormongers go about saying unsurpulously that some major political decisions would be announced today, Friday, 1 May 1981, on the occasion of the international festival of Labor Day, by the comrade president of the republic.

Among these decisions to be made, they said that our party and our revolutionary state would reexamine, at the end of this school year, the school and university calendar currently in use in our country, thereby shifting the various exams which would have taken place in the various grades.

Secondly, they said that our party and our revolutionary state would announce to all Beninese people the discontinuation of the extended working hours.

Thirdly, they said that our party and our revolutionary state would inform the working classes of the guidelines for effective implementation of the general conditions of service applicable to government (?cadres), as well as the conditions of service in our people's armed forces.

This is why, regarding the guidelines for the implementation of the general conditions of service for permanent state workers and the general conditions of service in the People's Armed Forces of Benin, we must hereby remind the entire Beninese working class that it was the revolutionary National Assembly, supreme organ of the state power of our revolutionary state, consisting of [word indistinct] democratically elected representatives of all socioprofessional spheres and categories in our country which, while debating (?the current budget) adopted the budget bill for 1981. Consequently, we believe it is the duty of the comrade people's commissioners at the revolutionary National Assembly to inform the (?electorate) objectively and truly of all decisions they take during the various meetings of their august assembly.

Regarding the daily and weekly working hours, we say today and publicly that it is the duty of our national trade union, the UNSTB, to inform our party and our revolutionary state officially and regularly, of its clearly-expressed intentions to have new working hours other than those currently in use. It should do this after holding a national trade union meeting, and on the basis of opinions gathered during seminars organized within all our production units and all our administrative services. [applause]

Finally, our party and our revolutionary state are very well prepared to examine, with particular and precise attention, all matters related to the concrete and realistic proposal to restudy the school and university calendar currently being used in our country, provided that they are chaneled officially through the comrade ministers of the three levels of education. This should be done after reaching objective and constructive conclusions in a national self-criticism seminar organized in our various schools and universities under the firm and clear-sighted leadership of the supreme revolutionary competent to deal with the matter. [applause]

NIGERIA

MINISTER CRITICIZES U.S., UK, FRANCE ON VETO

AB051535 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] The Federal Government has criticized the decision of the United States, Britain and France to veto African proposal to impose mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa. The minister of external affairs said in Lagos today that the enforcement of sanctions within the provisions of the UN Charter was the only option opened to Africa to (?counter) the intransigence of the racist regime. He called for the intensification of armed struggle in South Africa by the nationalist force.

GOVERNMENT SETS UP FORCE AGAINST ILLEGAL ARMS

AB042153 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 4 May 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The NATIONAL CONCORD learns that the Federal Government has set up a special task force comprising the police, customs and Nigerian airport authorities to combat illegal arms importation. As part of its operation, the task force will police the sea ports in search of smugglers. The paper concludes that the move is calculated to monitor the movement of international passengers bringing firearms illegally into the country.

CIVIL SERVANTS WILL NOT JOIN 11 MAY STRIKE

AB041723 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 4 May 81

[Text] The Nigerian Civil Service Union says it will not take part in the general strike scheduled for 11 May by the Nigerian Labor Congress. The president of the union, (Mr David Ogyiele), said in Lagos today that since some of the issues involved were before the industrial court, the union would not do anything to undermine the industrial relations system in the country. He called on civil servants to exercise restraint pending the decision of the national industrial court. [Mr Ogyiele] stated that the union's stand on the proposed strike action should not be misconstrued for weakness but as a proof in workers' belief in the rule of law.

The president of the Nigerian Labor Congress, (Mr Hassan Sumonu), in his May Day address called for a nationwide industrial action to press demands for a restoration of car loans and a 300-naira minimum wage.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON AUDU'S VISIT TO CSSR

For the text of the joint communique issued on Foreign Minister Ishaya Audu's visit to the CSSR, see the Czechoslovakia section, page D 4, of the 5 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

SOUTH AFRICA

BISHOP URGES EXCLUSION OF APARTHEID PERPETRATORS

NC050929 Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Johannesburg, 5 May (AFP)--Bishop Desmond Tutu, secretary general of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), today called for "perpetrators of apartheid" to be excluded from the church. Addressing the annual SACC conference here, the Anglican bishop, whose passport was withdrawn three weeks ago by the South African authorities, said that it was impossible to be both a believer in apartheid and Christianity.

The church's responsibility was to the poor, the suffering and those without power in society, for "they have no voice except the voice of the church, they have no power unless the church empowers them."

"A church that does not suffer cannot be the church of Jesus Christ," he said.

Bishop Tutu said there was still time for Prime Minister Pieter Botha to introduce changes which would assure him of a place in history. He was prepared to negotiate with Mr Botha ways to dismantle apartheid, the "most vicious system since Nazism," he said.

Several foreign observers at the conference declared their support for the council's anti-apartheid campaign, and Jens Thomsen, secretary general of Denmark's Danchurchaid pledged aid of 500,000 rands (about 660,000 dollars) to the SACC.

ZAMBIA

PRESIDENT KAUNDA CONDEMNS WEST FOR UN VETOES

LD051518 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 May 81 CA

[Text] President Kaunda today condemned Western powers for vetoes that have blocked moves at the United Nations for the imposition of economic sanctions against South Africa over its refusal to implement the Namibian independence plan. Dr Kaunda said the Security Council veto last week by Britain, France and America showed the need for the international community to exert necessary pressure on the contact group of five to influence South Africa for an early settlement of the Namibian problem.

Officially opening an international conference on (?apartheid) in Livingstone today, the president expressed disappointment with the contact group of five for their recent action in the Security Council. Dr Kaunda said now that they had frustrated the efforts of the United Nations, the five nations should take immediate steps to compel South Africa to implement the UN plan for the independence of Namibia. He condemned the Nonaligned Movement for the united stand that it took on the issue. Dr Kaunda also hailed SWAPO's efforts and the people of Namibia and of the frontline states, which are constant victims of the racist regime.

ZIMBABWE

PREVIOUS REGIME'S DEFENSE LOAN NOT TO BE REPAID

LD051420 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 5 May 81 CA

[Text] The government is not going to pay back the $29 million raised by the 1978 national defense levy because the debt was incurred by an illegal regime waging an illegal war against the people. This was disclosed by the minister of finance, Comrade Nkala, when he denied a report carried in the local press over the weekend that the levy would be repaid. Comrade Nkala said he intends to turn the levy into tax in his coming budget so that those who paid get nothing. The minister said the present government will pay debts of the previous regime where the money had been used to benefit the people and develop the country.